

Oakland City Council race heats up
With about a month until voting begins,
candidates define issues at two forums.

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Palm Springs update
Area resorts for lesbians;
hot real estate market.

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'Lilies' blooming
Collaboration between
A.C.T. and Theatre Rhino.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 10 • 10 March 2005

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Gay bashing suspect arrested

by Zak Szymanski

San Francisco Police have arrested a man suspected of participating in an antigay assault that occurred in the Castro in and around Moby Dick's bar on March 2.

In a bizarre twist to what easily could have been another unsolved crime, the suspects involved reportedly not only left their identifiable vehicle in front of the bar where they carried out their attack, but also dropped photo identification at the scene, including a driver's license and a marijuana club card.

The man arrested on Tuesday, March 8 is reportedly the owner of that identification. Two other suspects remain at large but SFPD has "some good leads," according to Inspector Sally DeHaven of the department's hate crimes division. DeHaven declined to identify the suspect in custody for fear that it would jeopardize the ongoing search for the other suspects.

It is unclear whether the men involved reside in San Francisco or simply use a local address on occasion. The vehicle they drove was traced to a rental agency from the Los Angeles area, according to police reports.

SFPD had faced some criticism over the



Beating victims West Chumley, left, and his partner Samson Whitaker, two days after the alleged attack in a Castro District bar.

past week for not arresting the suspects sooner, particularly when evidence had already identified one of the men. But SFPD Deputy Chief of Field Operations Greg Suhr said that

it is not unusual for it to take a few days to pick up a suspect that has managed to escape the original crime scene, because after a cer-

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Eddie Lee on vacation in the 1990s

Investigation of gay man's murder continues

by Zak Szymanski

Community input has been requested to help with the investigation into the killing of a gay Daly City man who was wearing women's clothing at the time of his death, leading some to speculate that he may have been the victim of a hate crime.

Eddie Chung Chou Lee, 42, died of multiple stab wounds sometime between Sunday, February 27, and Monday, February 28, according to police. His body was found near a hillside next to Westlake Park, not far from Cliffside Drive, where he lived for about two years.

More information is required to piece together details of Lee's life and his recent activities, said Daly City Police Detective Albert Cisneros. A hate crime motive has not been ruled out, said Cisneros, but it is not the only theory being investigated.

"We're looking at all possibilities. Just because he was in women's clothing doesn't mean we can solely focus on that point, although we aren't discounting that," Cisneros told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "At this point we've only been able to rule out a robbery."

Lee's personal belongings, including cash and jewelry, were found at the scene. Police also said he was not sexually assaulted.

A hate crime motive in this case could include gender identity or sexual orientation, according to Tina D'Elia, an advocate at Community United Against Violence. A hate crime perpetrator may have believed Lee was a woman, or may have targeted Lee specifically because he was a gay man. There is no indication that Lee lived as a transgender female, according to the information available.

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Castro gives 'Tina' the cold shoulder

by Matthew S. Bajko

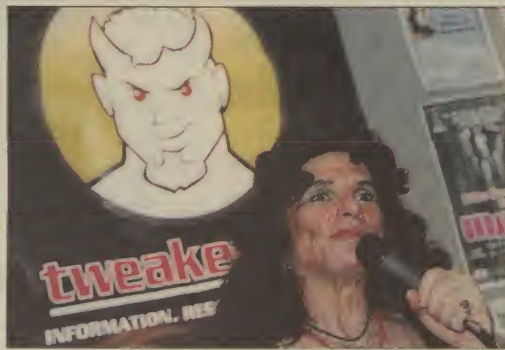
At 6:03 a.m. Tuesday morning on Craigslist.org's men seeking men page for San Francisco, a message appeared for those who had been up all night tweaking on Tina – gay slang for crystal – and cruising the Web for sex.

"Hey all you speed tweeeekkkers.....Having FUN! Yea you guyz are really HOTTT. You guyz are really KOOOOLL. TWEET TWEET TWEET. You all have rotting shit for brains....TWEET ON BROS!!!!" read the anonymous posting.

The post's snarky, sarcastic tone may do little to convince someone using crystal to stop, but it is indicative of a sea change in how gay men view crystal use within their community. For years community leaders and health professionals have pointed out that despite methamphetamine being a highly addictive drug and its use linked to rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases, many gay men view crystal use as acceptable.

But that acceptance level is beginning to change. Increasingly, whether online or out in the community, more gay men are speaking out against crystal.

"Somehow meth has come into our community and really taken over our heads and minds. We stop hanging out and doing other things. We go into this hooking up for meth for sex and some of it is unprotected," said Nicholas R., a recovering crystal addict who helps lead a new Crystal Meth Anonymous group on Thursday nights and asked that his last name not be disclosed. "For a lot of people using drugs, unless someone really cares about them and says something about their drug use they are not going to stop. Someone has to care enough about you to tell you



"Tina" (aka psychologist Michael Siever) hosts Tina's Café at Magnet Saturday, March 5. The forum, held the first Saturday of the month, allows men to talk about crystal use.

about recovery or that you are being sloppy." Several new initiatives recently have been launched to not only help crystal users kick

"Crystal Clear" stickers in their windows. The point is to send a message that crystal use is

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HRC names new leader

by Bob Roehr

The Human Rights Campaign has hired Joe Solmonese as its next president. Rumors of the decision had been circulating for more than a week and were made official on March 9.

Solmonese, 40, has worked for Emily's List for a dozen years, the last two as the head of

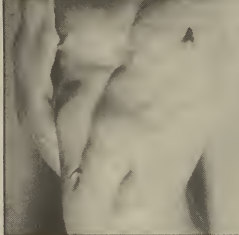
that group where he managed a budget of \$40 million and a staff of 85. The organization describes itself as "the nation's largest grassroots political network, dedicated to taking back our country from the radical right wing by electing pro-choice Democratic women to federal, state, and local office."

San Franciscan Scott Wiener, a member of HRC's



Joe Solmonese

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AIDS advocates split over HIV names bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

A bill introduced by a California state senator to require the state to go to a HIV names-based reporting system is causing a split between AIDS groups. While San Francisco and West Hollywood advocates are opposed to such a measure, some Los Angeles-based groups are pushing lawmakers to pass the bill.

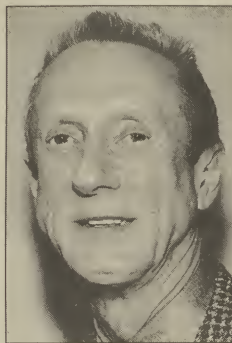
So heated is the issue, that the bill was introduced as a "spot" bill by Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona). Before the bill's final language is crafted, Soto is seeking advice from AIDS advocates and conferring with other lawmakers on how to shape the legislation.

Currently the state uses an HIV code-based reporting system, which uses portions of a person's identifying information to come up with a unique code. However, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials do not consider the system to be accurate enough and are pushing the state to go with names-based reporting.

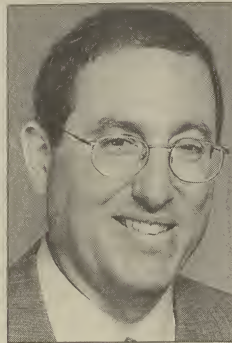
Those opposed to a names-based system fear people with HIV will be inadvertently identified, as was seen last month in Florida when a list of people with HIV was mistakenly e-mailed by a healthcare worker. Also, AIDS advocates point to data that shows people are less likely to get tested for HIV under names-based reporting.

Supporters of the bill fear that California could lose millions in federal HIV and AIDS funding if Republicans require the states to have names-based systems. It is expected that House Republicans will add such a requirement to the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization bill this year.

Soto did not return a call seeking



Stop AIDS Project director
Robert McMullin



West Hollywood Assemblyman
Paul Koretz

comment by press time. Pushing the issue has been the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the lead agency sponsor of the bill, which has lined up support from more than a dozen AIDS organizations in the southland as well as Los Angeles health officials.

"There has been a sea change in support for HIV names reporting, in that organizations or entities that just a few short years ago were opposed to it now support it," said AHF spokesman Ged Kenslear. "We are in favor of HIV names reporting because we feel it can lead to better allocation of resources. It is more prudent in an epidemiologic point of view. We would be better able to do public health tracking and direct dwindling government resources to both prevention and treatment."

Leading the opposition has been the group Being Alive and West Hollywood officials, in particular Mayor John Duran, an openly gay man who is HIV-positive. On February 22 the council unanimously voted to oppose HIV names-based reporting. The

council also directed its Sacramento lobbyist to redouble efforts to defeat Soto's bill.

Due to his constituents' opposition, Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) said he most likely will not take a position on the bill until he has to vote on it.

"The issue is complex enough. I want to try to stay open-minded and hear both sides. There are legitimate concerns on both sides," he said. "For me it is very unclear what the right thing is to do."

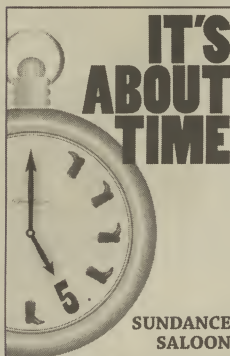
In San Francisco, health officials and city leaders have yet to wade into the issue of opposing or supporting the bill. AIDS office Director Jimmy Loyce said it may be time to have that public discussion.

"The health department and Health Commission have long said we would prefer an alternative to names-based reporting and use an unique identifier. It is probably time for us to both review that as a community and a Health Commission, given what potentially may be the rule of law," he said.

Even here, Loyce said there are differing opinions on the issue.

"Our community is divided as any community around this issue. Some people suggest as long as access to care and medications is an entitlement to everyone whose name is reported to state and federal governments they could live with names reporting. Absent that, they don't want to have names reporting," he said.

AIDS czar Jeff Sheehy echoed
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Tuesday, March 15
7:30 p.m. Lenten Reconciliation

Palm Sunday, March 20
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
9:30 a.m. Chorus Concert Prelude

Holy Thursday, March 24
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until midnight

Good Friday, March 25
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. Lord's Passion
Noon - 3 p.m. Church open for private devotion

Holy Saturday, March 26
8 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, March 27
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Easter Sunday
Mass followed by Reception

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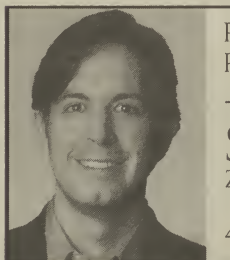
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At long last, a director for Under One Roof

by Tyson Gillfillan

Under One Roof, the Castro retail shop that raises funds for area AIDS service organizations announced last week that Mike Marshall of San Francisco has been hired to serve as executive director, ending a more than year-long search for the organization's top position.

"We'd interviewed a number of very qualified candidates," said board chair Annie Ellicott. "Mike rose to the top of the pool because he has the skills to take Under One Roof in the direction the board wants strategically."

Marshall, who was co-founder of the Californians for Civil Marriage and ran the "No on Knight" campaign, was chosen from a final list of a half dozen candidates to manage Under One Roof's more than \$500,000 annual operating budget. The position pays \$90,000 per year.

Marshall said he was attracted to the opportunity because of Under One Roof's history of 15 years supporting San Francisco AIDS organizations, and because of the importance of the store's mission to its more than 35 partnering organizations today.

"Government AIDS funding has been drastically cut," said Marshall. "As someone in this community, living with HIV/AIDS, I have a personally



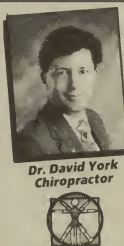
Under One Roof's Mike Marshall

vested interest in the organization's efforts."

Prior to joining the organization, Marshall was a consultant for a number of LGBT political organizations and campaigns. He is perhaps best known for his No on

Knight work, in which he shepherded a volunteer effort to amass \$6.5 million in donations statewide. The effort fell short at the polls, however, as California voters approved Proposition 22 in

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LGBT center café hosts new events

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The Three Dollar Bill Café at the LGBT Community Center has announced three new events that are free and open to the public.

This Saturday, March 12 is game night, beginning at 5:30 p.m. People are encouraged to bring a deck of cards, or favorite board, strategy, or party games and come to the café. Singles, couples, and multiples are all welcome to join together for a fun evening of friendly competition and refreshments. Attendees will break into groups, playing several different games to accommodate everyone.

A new micro-cinema night takes place Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. when the café hosts local filmmakers, video enthusiasts, and others who love to watch do-it-yourself cinema. People are invited to show their short films (15 minutes or less) on the café's wide-screen plasma television. Food, espresso drinks, and other beverages will be for sale. Ideal formats for submitting films are DVD, high quality Quicktime on CD, or the venerable VHS. Interested people should e-mail cinema@threedollarbill.com by March

23 with a brief description of their submission and contact information.

Finally, on Friday, April 1, the café will present a trivia night at 7:30 p.m., where teams will compete for prizes, co-owner Peter Howells said.

The café is located on the ground floor of the center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco. For more information, visit www.threedollarbill.com.

Cheer SF begins 25th year

Cheer San Francisco, the entertaining pep squad, enters its 25th year in 2005 and will kick off the celebration with a beer benefit Sunday, March 13 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street in the South of Market District. Project Open Hand has been selected as the Cheer for Life beneficiary for the event. Steve Burke of Cheer SF invites interested community members to celebrate with the more than 40 cheerleaders that make up the first and longest-running LGBT-identified cheer team. The troupe performs throughout the year at numerous Pride events and other venues, raising money for organizations helping people with HIV/AIDS and cancer.

For more information on the organization, visit www.cheersf.org.

PFLAG meeting

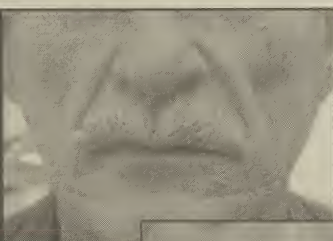
The San Francisco chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets Sunday, March 13, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street, at Market. Bay Area Reporter assistant editor Matthew S. Bajko will be the guest speaker at 3 p.m. Attendees will break into support groups from 2 to 3. PFLAG's regular meetings are the second Sunday of the month. For more information on the local chapter, call (415) 921-8850 or e-mail pflagsf@aol.com. The local Web site is www.pflagsf.org.

E. Bay Dem club to meet

With a special election soon taking place to fill the unexpired term of former Oakland City Council member Danny Wan, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club will hold its endorsement meeting Monday, March 14 at 6 p.m. at La Estrillita Café, 446 East 12th Street in Oakland. Candidates include Wan's former chief of staff, Pat Kernighan, Green Party member Aimee Allison, and out lesbian Peggy Moore, who's also a club vice president. Wan had been the only out LGBT member on the City Council. The special vote-by-mail election takes place between April 18 and May 17. [For more on the race, see story, page 10.]

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Search on for new Pacific Center director

by Kevin Davis

Berkeley's long-running Pacific Center for Human Growth is searching for a new executive director. Its outgoing director, Frank Gurucharri announced his resignation in late February to return to his home state of Florida.

The center's board is seeking someone with strong management and operational skills, who is talented at nurturing relationships.

"We are an organization that's not institutional or corporate with top-down procedures," said Ralph Thomas, president of the nine-member board. "We're about how people interact in building strong relationships. We want someone who can operate in that kind of mode, who enjoys people."

Gurucharri is relocating later this month to serve as vice president of behavioral health in Broward County, Florida for Spectrum Inc. a South Florida not-for-profit mental health and



From left, the Pacific Center's Michael Drennan, Ralph Thomas, and Frank Gurucharri. Gurucharri is leaving to return to his native Florida.

substance abuse agency.

Since Gurucharri's hiring in 1998, he has increased the center's annual budget from \$125,000 to its current \$500,000. Services include psychotherapy and peer groups for genderqueers, women

of color, gay married men, HIV-positives, seniors, and an AA meeting.

"Frank has done an amazing job of working with funders and foundations," said Thomas. "He

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Project Inform director leaves

by Zak Szymanski

Project Inform's Executive Director Ellen LaPointe is leaving her position, the organization has announced. LaPointe, who has served as the HIV/AIDS organization's executive director for four years, is moving into the private sector. Her last day at the agency is April 1.

"I was presented with an unexpected opportunity a few weeks ago, and after a tremendous amount of soul searching I have decided to pursue it," said a statement from LaPointe, who has not yet disclosed her next place of employment.

"I have been honored and proud to be a part of Project Inform and its extraordinary work and accomplishments over the last four years," said LaPointe. "I have nothing but the highest regard and respect for the staff, our board, and our volunteers, all of whom have remained steadfast in their commitment to people with HIV disease through the incredible challenges we have faced together. I appreciate the strength of our relationships with the many community partners whose personal and professional efforts have significantly enhanced our efforts. And I thank our many supporters who have continued to stand with us during lean economic times. Working in this environment has truly been an inspiration and a privilege I will always be grateful to have had."

Under LaPointe's leadership, Project Inform expanded its public policy advocacy to enhance access to HIV-related care and treatment, successfully helping to lead the effort against Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to cap ADAP enrollment last year. Project Inform's HIV drug pricing advocacy also became very effective, with the agency establishing community dialogues with pharmaceutical and biotech companies over the last four years, helping to secure a two-year price freeze on AIDS drugs beginning



PI's Ellen LaPointe

in 2002.

"Ellen's outstanding direction and leadership have had a significant impact on Project Inform's

ability to navigate the enormous challenges all of us engaged in AIDS work have faced in recent years," said board President Stephen Suacci.

Founding Director Martin Delaney also praised LaPointe but added that the organization will continue to thrive under new leadership.

"Our strength and consistent vision have allowed us to be an important contributor in the fight against AIDS for the last 20 years and Project Inform remains strong and well-equipped to face the challenges ahead," said Delaney.

The board of directors has already started looking for an interim executive director and expects to have someone in place before LaPointe's departure. A search for a permanent replacement will begin soon. ▼

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'We're on it'

Last week's alleged gay bashing of a San Francisco couple was the first time in a while that violent antigay hate came so publicly to the Castro. Thankfully, the two men were not injured seriously and received help from staff and patrons at Moby Dick's bar. Yet, despite the apparent stupidity of the alleged attackers, who reportedly left identification at the scene, the San Francisco Police Department has, just as we went to press, announced an arrest in the case — one out of three suspects a full week after the incident. What's up with that?

The suspects not only left behind an ID card and marijuana club card, according to police, the vehicle in which they were riding stuck around in front of the bar long enough for witnesses to get the license plate number — another good piece of evidence. As if that weren't enough, the suspects came back to the bar after the attack, presumably looking for the missing ID cards, giving witnesses yet another look at them. So what's the hold-up (pun intended)? Police Inspector Sally DeHaven, a veteran hate-crime investigator, told us earlier this week, "Rest assured the police were on it immediately and will continue to be on it. I have faith that the suspects will be found."

Found? Police already should have had a pretty good idea of who they are. What took so long? We understand that real-life police work is not as simple as the stuff they show on *Law and Order*, and that virtually no crime is solved within an hour, but it seems to us that in terms of identifying the probable suspects, the police in this case were handed a big break.

The victims reported that the incident started on the street, when one of the suspects in the vehicle started yelling "faggot." After being admonished by one of the victims, the suspects allegedly leapt from the vehicle and started chasing the man, who ran into the bar but was grabbed from behind and hit. His partner sustained injuries when he tried to help end the fight.

Antigay attacks around the country have been in the news lately, here in the Bay Area and elsewhere. Last week the body of 43-year-old Eddie Lee was found in Daly City. The gay

man had been wearing women's clothing, and there is a distinct possibility that this was a hate crime. As we report this week, police in that jurisdiction are working on leads, but need any witnesses to come forward.

Last Saturday in Santa Fe, New Mexico, about 300 people attended a candlelight vigil to show support for James Maestas, 21, a gay man who was beaten brutally outside a hotel by a group of three men. Witnesses told police that the assailants repeatedly called Maestas and a companion "faggots" during the beating. The Associated Press reported that the February 27 beating shocked Santa Fe, which is second only to San Francisco in the percentage of same-sex households. Governor Bill Richardson attended the rally and condemned the hate crime. "We as a society have got to find ways to end hatred," Richardson reportedly said. Three men — two teenagers and one 20-year-old — have been charged in connection

with the crime and have pleaded not guilty. Maestas remains hospitalized with serious injuries, and only spoke for the first time since the attack last weekend, reportedly asking for a mirror so that he could see his face.

We want the San Francisco Police Department to get cracking on this latest attack in the city. Their refusal to release more information is not comforting to us, and it certainly can't be much consolation to the two men who were hurt in a part of the city they — and thousands of other gays — call home. "Rest assured" is not enough. We need some action.

Interestingly, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy was out of the country when this gay bashing hit the papers. He called us Wednesday morning from Israel to let us know he's on top of the situation. Duffy has proven that he can be thousands of miles away and still make a difference — shortly after he called us, police suddenly announced the one arrest in the case. ▼



Editorial



Meth's spiral of despair

by Paul Koretz

As a member of the West Hollywood City Council in the 1980s and 1990s, I witnessed the devastating impact of AIDS in the gay community and lost many dear friends. Throughout my political career, I have fought for condom distribution, HIV prevention funding, and have authored state legislation on HIV treatment and prevention. Now I see an HIV threat as serious as any we have faced and it's not some bogus superbug. It's crystal methamphetamine.

Crystal use by middle-class gay men in California is taking a high-priced and deadly toll, fueling a new round of HIV infections. Many of these new infections are in people who managed to remain HIV-negative for over 20 years. Meth users, flying high with the self-confidence and invincibility of Superman, are engaging in risky sexual behavior and becoming infected with HIV. Meth's incredibly addictive effects usually have that newly HIV infected person soon hooking up to "party and play" again, leading to further infections.

The costs of crystal use in California are astronomical. Countless "weekend users" are surprised to find they somehow lost their jobs, their friends, and their health and now must seek help from our increasingly fragile state health care safety net. The average HIV patient in Medi-Cal cost taxpayers \$22,964 per year. In the AIDS Drug Assistance Program the cost is \$7,966 per year. These expenditures leave us with less drug treatment and HIV prevention funds and further fuels this ugly spiral of despair.

Unfortunately, the high cost of meth doesn't end there. For every pound of methamphetamine produced, seven pounds of toxic waste are released into our environment. Super labs producing large quantities

of meth dot the California countryside leaving behind contaminated groundwater from the toxic solvents dumped on the ground. In our cities, small meth user labs set up in apartment bathtubs release a flammable gas heavier than air that gathers at floor level and silently drifts into the respiratory systems of toddlers living nearby. Every year hundreds of California children are impacted by meth labs located in their homes and neighborhoods.

The key ingredient for meth labs is the tablet form of pseudoephedrine-containing cold medicines. Current California law limits pseudoephedrine purchases to 9 grams or three packages per transaction. Therefore, addicted meth users, in a process they call "smurfing," travel from store to store purchasing or shop lifting cold medicine.

Armed with a recipe from the Internet, crystal addicts cook meth using a dangerous process and dump their wastes down drains and into bays, rivers, and the ocean.

It is absolutely incredible how many problems are created by meth: HIV infections, child poisoning and developmental disorders, addiction and its destruction of successful lives, law enforcement injuries and deaths, fire and chemical hazards right inside our own neighborhoods, and toxic wastes that contaminate soil and water resources. We simply have to try anything that shows promise in stemming crystal production and use in our communities.

A new Oklahoma law put the tablet form of pseudoephedrine behind the pharmacy counter and has been credited with dramatically reducing the number of meth labs there. That's why I have introduced AB283, which, like the Oklahoma law, requires cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine to be sold

behind the pharmacy counter, along with an I.D. check, and a transaction log of pseudoephedrine purchases. The bill exempts gel cap and liquid versions of cold medicines from the requirements because they are not commonly used in meth production.

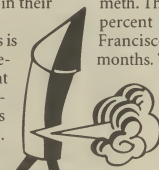
Health surveys in Los Angeles and San Francisco show that roughly a third of people newly diagnosed with HIV report using meth. The Stop AIDS Project found that 20 percent of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco have used meth in the last six months. That's a scary number.

After years of fighting tough battles for my gay constituents so heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS, I am saddened to hear of people throwing away decades of practicing safe-sex for one ill-advised night of crystal use and unprotected sex.

AB283 is something I can do as a state legislator to limit the supply of crystal meth and perhaps reduce its impact in West Hollywood and around the state. However, only a loud chorus of community leaders, entertainers, columnists, business owners, and readers like you can reverse the demand that has created this "crystal mess."

So talk to your friends and coworkers about the destructiveness of crystal meth. Donate money to a drug treatment program. Make it clear to everyone you know that crystal is unattractive, harmful to the environment, and a cruel manifestation of self-destruction that hurts everyone around it. Today can be a turning point for the gay community and for all of California. ▼

Paul Koretz (D) is a member of the California Assembly and represents West Hollywood.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Who's being democratic?

Regarding the Israel trip for local politicians [*"Israel trip builds bridges for gay leaders," March 3*]: It is interesting to note that the Jewish group organizing this trip is ensuring that the participants meet many different people and are exposed to a very broad range of perspectives. On the other hand, so-called QUIT! would definitely prefer for a trip like this not to happen at all. So who's being more democratic here?

Harold V. Clumbeck
San Francisco

Loading Dock closes

How sad, what a shame, the SF leather community doesn't even care? Another gay bar bites the dust like My Place, Jackhammer, Niteshift, etc., for yet another hetro bar to come in its place. Is this our gay future?

Please, not everyone is at home or on the computer.

So when Dore Alley and Folsom Street Fair come we can just all be a "hick town" for our leather guests? Wake up you leather queens and smell the leather! Someone out there open a new leather bar already! I guess Chicago is a better gay leather bar kind of town.

Longing for the old retro gay leather days of the 1970s.

Ron Molina
San Francisco

Disappointed at Empress coverage

I'm pissed off that this year's 40th coronation of Emperor and Empress was not on the front page [*"The royal family," On the Town, February 24*]. For the past 25 years that I have been in the city, I have enjoyed, admired, and appreciated the B.A.R. This rag, to the best of my recollection, for the first time didn't acknowledge the coronation on the front page.

We (the royal wheel) have supported the B.A.R. from its infancy to the full-blown success it has achieved.

Also, the loss of Wayne Friday's column is a travesty. He kept his heart on the pulse of politicians, from my point of view.

Dennis W. Tyler
San Francisco

Drug dealers the problem on Polk

I've read some poorly written articles in the B.A.R. over the years, but "Concerns about efforts to 'de-gay' Polk Street" [February 17] hit a new low. It's so incredibly lopsided it would be laughable if it didn't make a bunch of perfectly good people, the Lower Polk Neighbors, sound like homophobic storm troopers of gentrification. LPN is trying to make the Polk safer and more livable for everyone. Period. Mr. Xavier, Mr. Kapp, and other Polk Street bar owners should stop blaming others and own up to the real reasons that so many of the gay Polk bars have closed before there aren't any left.

Xavier and Kapp claim "there appears to be a bias against actual Rendez-Vous customers who may stand outside to smoke or socialize during bar hours." What they don't want to admit is that it wasn't the gayness of their customers, the smoking, or the socializing that was the source of the conflict with LPN. The conflict stemmed from drug dealers and hustlers hitting up passersby. I am no stranger to drugs. I am pro-sex-work. I am against random people, who are going about their lives, being solicited for drugs and sex. It is every business owner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk adjacent to their business as a public right-of-way, free of crime and nuisances.

Many other bars in the neighborhood have successfully resolved issues with LPN without "de-gay-ing" or otherwise losing their unique flavor. In the February 24 issue, Xavier and Kapp took out a full-page add to complain that "LPN opposition made our move impossible." It's really pathetic, and it demeans the true meaning of homophobia, when someone plays the homophobia card to avoid taking responsibility for their own actions, especially when the claim of antigay animus is leveled at people who are supportive of our community.

On the broader theme of dwindling gay bars in the Polk, Zak Szymanski completely misses, or chooses to ignore, the reason so many have changed hands and been transformed: they were seriously tired. Hemlock is a much, much, better place to hang out and drink than the Giraffe was. Vertigo hires good DJs and has a dance floor and smoking patio; Reflections was nick-named Rejections. The Uptown was sleazy; the Lush Lounge is comfy and relaxing. The White Swallow was empty... ok, from what I've seen of the Big-foot Lounge it still is, but they have a big, freaky wood carving of an animal! How come all of these places are better decorated and better lit as straight-ish bars?

Aren't we supposed to be the ones with fabulous taste? People go to the new places in droves because the new owners replaced the hideous lighting and the nasty brass-and-mirror décor that hadn't been up-

dated since 1980. They decided to do new things and make their bars fresh. To me, it always felt like the old owners, including Xavier and Kapp, just gave up on making their bars cool or comfy or interesting a really long time ago. Walking into Rendez-Vous, you could almost feel the stagnation and neglect in the air.

James DeVinny, aka Sister Bea Attitude
San Francisco

Badlands: Is Les at it again?

As someone who hasn't formed an opinion about Les Natali and the alleged treatment toward minority patrons at Badlands, let me share a few of my observations.

1) Shortly after accusations surfaced, I saw several Badlands ads in the B.A.R. and *Gloss* magazine.

2) Since the accusations surfaced, a more "diverse" staff has been hired at Badlands, including a lesbian bartender.

3) I was in Badlands three weeks ago and saw posters announcing a new "Latin" night on Sunday nights. However, in the February 24 B.A.R., Badlands' ad says "Wednesday is Latin night." And upon passing Badlands a couple weeks ago, the poster on the window says "Thursday night is Latin nights."

4) Badlands is now offering \$1.25 domestic bottles all the time, something no bar in Castro is doing. Is this a financial absolution of guilt?

My question is this: If Mr. Natali is indeed innocent of the accusations, then why is he spending so much time, energy, and money to portray his bar as "all-encompassing"?

As I said earlier, I didn't have an opinion about this when it happened, however, there are a lot of things that make me go "hmmmm."

David Parker
San Francisco

Temptation to arm is lazy thinking

"Guns and gay rights directly linked, say some" [February 10] - say "some"? Yeah, some right-wing nutcases. I won't go into the journalistic ethics of the "say some" part of your story (you can always find the "some" to advance any half-baked theory). The thing is, we all need to be wary of advancing ideas that only give ammunition to the far right.

And we need to ask ourselves, "What kind of society do we want to create?" Do we really want everyone armed to the teeth with weapons, "just in case"? That's weak. The stronger stance is one of no guns. Let's get rid of them. While we can't get rid of all of them, we have to take the strong position, the courageous position, that we as a civilized society don't want guns. So, to me, it's a bolder, more imaginative, and gutsier stance to make the public pronouncement that we as a society won't tolerate guns.

Just think of how the Bush administration and the far right are really pushing this fear down the throats of our society. I was reading an excerpt of Buddhist author and teacher Jack Kornfield's ideas on creating peace in our world. He says, "...what is needed to bring benefit to the world? How does peace come about? The Buddha taught that peace is possible both individually and collectively, but that depends on skillful causes and conditions."

The temptation to arm ourselves against each other is lazy thinking. The presence of guns alone seems to bring about violence, and violent solutions to problems that need skillful solutions. (I write this after reading of the gunshot-suicide of Hunter Thompson, who played with guns a lot ... and now, what a way to go ... a real downer.)

So the lousy excuses for playing with guns espoused by Ms. Margaret in Zak Szymanski's piece is the same kind of reasoning that lazy-minded people use for doing all kinds of bad things in these times. It's the same as "well, everyone else is driving a huge SUV, I want to be the last one standing so I'm getting an even bigger SUV."

Let me just advocate to people who like shooting things that instead of going down to your corner gun shop, go buy an Xbox or a PlayStation 2. You can have all the same fun and kill as many imaginary people as you really want. But then again, that's assuming these gun nuts know the difference between fantasy and reality. Let's just keep real guns off our streets, out of our homes and vehicles, and create a civilized society, for a change.

Mark Van Slyke
San Francisco

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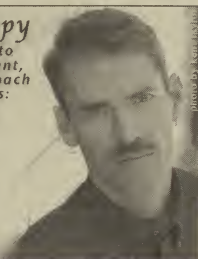
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The moral of the story

by Paula Martinac

After the 2004 election, there was much boasting on the right and hand-wringing on the left about the term "moral values," which was the top issue cited by Americans in the exit polls as having influenced their votes. Politicos and pundits alike were quick to conclude that voters' moral concerns may have been primarily about homosexuality and same-sex marriage. But now, four months after the polls closed, the big, amorphous category of moral values is getting a closer, more thoughtful look.

The Scripps Howard Research Center of Ohio University recently polled 1,001 adult Americans by telephone, asking them what their most pressing

one, since it knocks the wind out of both Republican smugness and Democratic despair about the election.

In short, what the poll found was that issues having to do with harm or suffering topped Americans' list of moral concerns—child and spousal abuse chief among them. It's heartening to see that so many Americans (89 percent) actually rank the abuse of women and children as bigger worries than whether two gay men or two lesbians want to make a long-term legal and emotional commitment to each other.

Even more interesting, the poll found homosexuality and same-sex marriage among Americans' least-mentioned moral concerns (although, when broken out by party, Republicans ranked these issues of greater concern than Democrats did). In fact,

gay people and our struggle for marriage rights were right down near the bottom of the list with gambling, something that many Americans view as harmless, enjoyable entertainment.

The poll results underline the fact that the word "moral" is a subjective term, and not one that either the right or the left can lay exclusive claim to. Of course, it has a dictionary definition: Webster's says "moral" means "of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior." As it relates to gay people, the key term in that definition is "behavior"—while religious right-wingers contend that we could change if we just weren't so stubbornly sinful, this new poll suggests that maybe more Americans are starting to realize that sexual orientation isn't a behavior at all, but an identity.

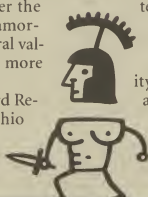
However, gay people are connected to "moral" concerns—just not in the ways the right would like everyone to believe. If the Scripps

Howard pollsters had called me, I would have had lots of items to add to the list of things that trouble me from a moral standpoint, and many would have to do with gays and lesbians. For example, I believe it is bad behavior for the pope to assert that same-sex marriage is part of "an ideology of evil." In my view, a pressing moral concern is that so many of our religious leaders spew hatred of a particular group of people and do it in the name of God.

I think it's also bad behavior for USA Next—a right-wing group that bills itself as the conservative alternative to the American Association for Retired Persons—to go on the attack against AARP because the latter disagrees with the president's proposed changes to Social Security. USA Next is on an all-out campaign of lies and distortion to try to convince AARP's membership that the organization is actively engaged in working for gay marriage rights—which, by the way, it is not. A pressing moral concern of mine is that right-wing pit bulls use gay issues as a smokescreen whenever they want to promote an unrelated political agenda or to gain access to potential new members.

Finally, it's bad behavior for the U.S. government to have spent almost \$200 million to keep the antigay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy in place for the past 12 years. That amount would have gone far to help the Social Security system. Among my biggest moral concerns, then, is that taxpayer dollars continue to fund discrimination against American citizens. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions@qsyndicate.com.



Lesbian Notions

New HIV spokesmodels unveil ads



The latest group of HIV prevention spokesmodels unveiled the new "HIV Stops With Me" television ad Monday, March 7 at the LGBT Community Center. The ad, created by Better World Advertising, focuses on the dangers of barebacking. The spokesmodels, from left, Emory, Scott, David, Melanie, Greg, an Alejandro (they only use their first names) spoke about the campaign, with Emory pointing out that barebacking is "just stupid" and "really unattractive." The ads will run on several cable channels, including A&E, BET, Bravo, Comedy Central, MTV, and VH1. In addition to the TV spots, new print ads and Internet features will debut this spring. The Web site, www.hivstopswithme.org, aims to unite the HIV-positive community and empower PWAs to help stop the epidemic. Over 1,000 people visit the award-winning site each day.

With friends like these...

by Bill Barnes

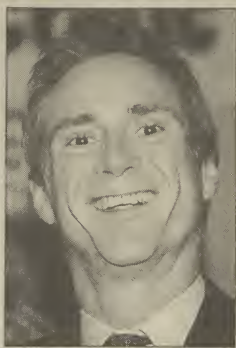
Editor's note: While the Bay Area Reporter looks for a new political columnist, following the retirement of Wayne Friday, we have invited several LGBT officials and others to write guest columns. This is the fourth in a series of such columns.

The old saying goes "with friends like these..." That brings us to the aptly named Dr. David Ho, who rushed to the microphone like an untalented American Idol contestant with his off-key hysteria about the HIV super virus that would soon sweep America.

Bravo to Martin Delaney of Project Inform for telling the truth: "A lot of clinicians see this stuff, and they don't call press conferences." Should we be worried about HIV? Absolutely. But, as longtime AIDS activist and San Francisco native Mark Harrington says about Ho's hysteria: "it's much ado about an anecdote."

The press reports have fueled venomous pronouncements from Republicans. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg called not taking HIV precautions "a sin in our society." You gotta appreciate moralizing from the politician "supporting" gay marriage while sending lawyers to fight it.

There's also this idea from William F. Buckley Jr.: "Someone, 20 years ago, suggested a discreet tattoo, the sight of which would alert the prospective part-



Former Milk Club president Michael Goldstein

ner to the danger of proceeding as had been planned—maybe it is up now for reconsideration."

We are family

Our community's success requires support from parents, families, and friends. Stay Close (www.stayclose.org) is PFLAG's new campaign featuring celebrities from Cyndi Lauper to Ben Affleck and politicians like former Representative Dick Gephardt and Representative Gregory Meeks (D-New York) supporting openly gay family members. Growing up in the largely black congressional district Meeks now represents, I say hooray to Meeks and PFLAG for helping to make all of our communities visible.

While we're on the subject of

visibility, you gotta read Keith Boykin's thought-provoking book *Beyond the Down Low*. Boykin, a former aide to President Bill Clinton, is a leading voice for African American same-gender loving people, and was in rare form at A Different Light Bookstore on Monday.

A lot of Oakland's LGBT leadership, including out Oakland AC Transit member Rebecca Kaplan, want Moore for Oakland, as in African American lesbian Peggy Moore. Moore's fighting gentrification and working for medical cannabis patients. Visit mooreforoakland.org to learn about this dynamic, progressive voice. Moore is running in the special election to replace former out gay City Council member Danny Wan.

It's a shame people of color are shut out of SF's "progressive" LGBT politics. Despite former club President Michael Goldstein's work on the Badlands controversy, the Milk Club's new slate of officers doesn't include one person of color or lesbian, and the club didn't endorse any African American candidate last November (including BART Director Lynette Sweet, running unopposed). Harvey Milk's words ring true today: "It's not just enough anymore just to have friends represent us, no matter how good that friend may be." Word is that some inclusive, progressive LGBT folks might start another club; we'll see if Milk gets its act together.

Et cetera

It's been 30 years since California
page 20 ►

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City Council candidates Justin Horner, Paul Garrison, Peggy Moore, and Todd Plate at a forum last week.

Development big issue in Oakland race

by Cynthia Laird

The nine candidates trying to replace former Oakland City Council member

Danny Wan offered differing positions on a large development project at two community forums held last week.

The Oak to 9th project, as it's called, would see 65 acres devel-

oped along the waterfront east of Jack London Square. The project, according to a fact sheet put out by the local Community Benefits Coalition, would include 3,100 units of condominium-style housing at market rates, retail space, and open space. Some Oakland residents have expressed concern that the project might in effect segregate itself from the rest of the city. The buildings could be as tall as 20 stories, the coalition said.

"Oak to 9th is public property that will potentially sell for \$19 million and the developers stand to make millions," candidate David Kakishiba said at the March 4 forum at City Hall. "Shirley's right, we need to dig in and organize neighbors."

He was referring to candidate Shirley Gee, a staunch opponent of the project. During her comments, Gee, who helped put together the city's general plan and estuary plan years ago, said city planners were ignoring both in the race to sell the land.

"Both of those plans are being violated," she said.

Pat Kernighan, another candidate in the race and Wan's former chief of staff, took a more nuanced approach. "The proposal is just beginning," she said, adding that she also favors community benefits analysis of the project. "A lot can be negotiated, but we also need to look at the benefits."

Green Party candidate Aimee Allison was more critical. "We only have one shoreline," she said. "We should not give that away. Oak to 9th is inherently flawed ... there was no competition in bidding."

Candidate Pamela Drake noted that one group of neighbors along 5th Avenue near the proposed site sued to get out of the project. "They will wall off the waterfront," Drake said of the development.

Justin Horner, an aide to Vice Mayor Jane Brunner, was supportive. "Oak to 9th is a wonderful opportunity," he said, adding that while he's spent little time there, community benefits should be an integral part of "each and every development."

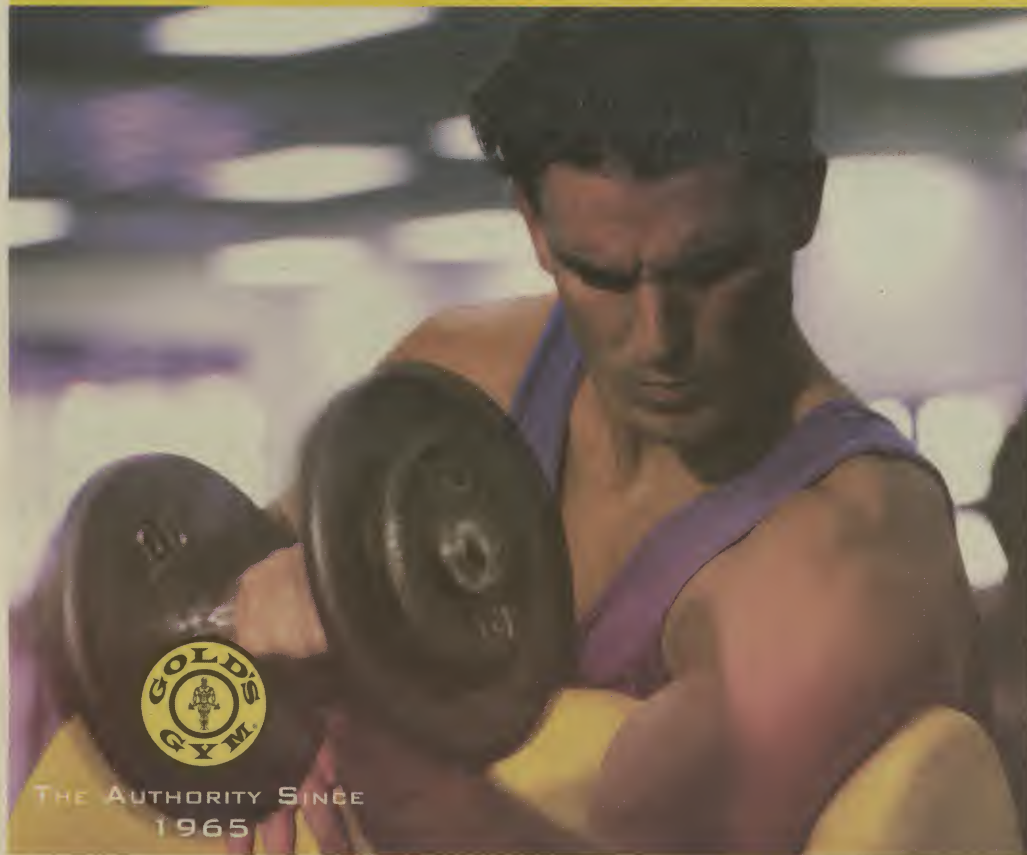
Paul Garrison, another candidate, said he would scrutinize the project. "Any development has to have community benefits." He favors putting Oaklanders first and tying the project in to the estuary plan.

Peggy Moore, the lone out LGBT candidate in the race, said she was still learning about the project.

While LGBT issues were lacking in the two forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters,

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HISTORY LESSON

Who was Mercedes de Acosta?

by Liz Highleyman

March 1893 (112 years ago this month): Writer Mercedes de Acosta is born in New York City.

Having never gained widespread acclaim for her own writing, Mercedes de Acosta is best remembered for her high-profile affairs with some of the world's most glamorous women.

De Acosta was born in New York City in March 1893, the youngest of seven children of a wealthy Cuban father and a mother descended from Spanish nobility. As a young girl, she wore boy's clothes and was called by a masculine name. She would later write that she actually believed she was a boy until age 7. When she was 14, soon after her father committed suicide, she was sent to a convent school in France.

At age 20, after considerable hesitation, de Acosta married wealthy painter and socialite Abram Poole. But this did not stop her from having numerous affairs with women. She began associating with lesbians in the New York theater world, attending a salon hosted by lesbian literary agent Bessie Marbury and her partner, designer Elsie de Wolfe. Among de Acosta's lovers were several renowned stage and screen actresses – including Eva Le Gallienne, Ona Munson, and Alla Nazimova – as well as modern-dance pioneer Isadora Duncan. De Acosta and Poole (himself purportedly homosexual) eventually divorced in 1935 after having been separated for several years.

Widely viewed as eccentric, de Acosta was often seen with slicked-back hair and dressed in mannish attire – usually black – with a cape and tricorn hat, leading Tallulah Bankhead to dub her "Countess Dracula." She was open about her love affairs with women and unafraid to speak her mind, which included boasting about her sexual conquests. De Acosta was interested in astrology, yoga, the occult, and Eastern mysticism long before they became popular, and in 1938 she made an extended pilgrimage to India to visit the sage Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi.

De Acosta wrote three volumes of poetry, two novels, and several plays, most of which were never produced. Although her works did not include explicit lesbian relationships, they did often feature women protagonists struggling with loneliness, prejudice, unhappy marriages, and forbidden love. While her writing earned praise



Mercedes de Acosta

from some critics, it failed to gain popular acclaim, and she refused to limit her subject matter for the sake of commercial appeal.

When de Acosta was in her mid-30s, Bessie Marbury helped her secure a job as a screenwriter with RKO Studios in Hollywood. As with her plays, most of her scripts were never produced. In 1931, not long after she arrived in California, she met the love of her life, actress Greta Garbo, at a lesbian tea party.

The two women began a passionate affair and briefly lived together. Describing hiking together during a trip to the Sierra, de Acosta wrote, "I would see her above me, her face and body outlined against the sky, looking like some radiant, elemental, glorious god and goddess melted into one." But as de Acosta's ardor deepened, Garbo's cooled. They both had relationships with other people, including affairs at different times with another celebrated actress, Marlene Dietrich.

During World War II and the McCarthy era that followed, radical politics and homosexuality within the film industry came under fire. Many queer Hollywood personalities went into hiding, sometimes entering "lavender marriages" with opposite-sex partners who were also homosexual. De Acosta's openness became an increasing liability to her career and those of her lovers. After maintaining an on-and-off relationship for more than a decade, Garbo sought to end things with de Acosta. "I told you before you came [to visit] where we stand," Garbo wrote in a letter. "I wish to be left alone. ... Be a good boy and don't bother me now."

De Acosta spent the 1950s in Paris, where she met Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. In 1960, after returning to New York City in ill health and with little money, she published her autobiography, *Here Lies the Heart*. Although she omitted any explicit sexual details, some of her former lovers were outraged that de Acosta discussed their relationships. The notoriously private Garbo never spoke to her again, and Le Gallienne suggested the book should have been titled *Here the Heart Lies and Lies and Lies*.

Having alienated her former

friends and lovers, de Acosta spent her final years virtually secluded in her small Manhattan apartment. She died poor and largely unknown in May 1968 at the age of 75.

Some 30 years after de Acosta's death and 10 years after that of Garbo, 80 or so letters, cards, and telegrams Garbo sent to de Acosta were unveiled by the Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia in April 2000. (De Acosta had sold them to the museum for \$5,000.) While the letters hint at a passionate involvement complete with jealousy and recriminations – at least on the part of de Acosta – they reveal no explicit details about whether the women had a sexual relationship.

While she never gained fame for her own work, de Acosta nevertheless made her mark on history. "Say what you will about Mercedes de Acosta," Toklas once wrote, "she's had the three greatest women of the 20th century." ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

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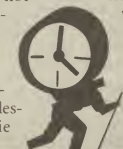
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Suggested reading

Schanke, Robert. 2003. *That Furious Lesbian: The Story of Mercedes de Acosta* (Southern Illinois University Press).

Vickers, Hugo. 1994. *Loving Garbo: The Story of Greta Garbo, Cecil Beaton, and Mercedes de Acosta* (Random House).

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Cold medicine restrictions seen as cure for meth labs

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two state legislators want California to restrict the sale of certain cold remedies as a way to curb the illegal production of methamphetamine.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) introduced AB283, which would require that products containing pseudoephedrine be sold at pharmacies, and requires purchasers to show identification and sign a transaction log. Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough) authored SB152, which would require that pseudoephedrine products be sold by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician and limit the amount of the product that a person could acquire in a 30-day period.

With gay men who use crystal more at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, Koretz said it is important that the state do whatever it can to combat the use of the drug.

"One of the successes has been to try to knock off crystal meth at its source. If we make it more difficult to manufacture that will lead to less use and fewer transmissions of HIV," he said. "We are hoping the net result is a number of lives saved."

By putting purchase controls

on the tablet form of pseudoephedrine (PSE), a key ingredient in meth production, the lawmakers argue that the measures would curb crystal methamphetamine production. Current California law limits PSE purchases to 9 grams or three packages per transaction. However, meth users can circumvent the law by "smurfing," where they travel from store to store purchasing or shoplifting PSE products.

The bills are modeled after legislation passed by Oklahoma lawmakers that took effect in April 2004 and includes a limit of 9 grams per purchaser in a 30-day period. Supporters of that state's bill say the results have been "nothing short of remarkable." Since the law was fully implemented last June, the number of Oklahoma meth lab busts has been reduced by 70 percent.

By mid-2005 the tracking of each person's purchases will be done by a statewide electronic logbook. According to Brian Surber, deputy general counsel with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, the greatest deterrent effect in the new Oklahoma law is the meth user's withdrawal-induced paranoia. Users find it almost impossible to go to the pharmacy counter, ask for the PSE product, show I.D., and have their information recorded in a log book.

Other states, such as Missouri, are also eyeing similar legislation. Lobbyists for the drug makers, pharmacists, and retail outlets have been opposed to the measures, arguing it inconveniences people who just want to get their cold medicine and go home to bed.

However, Koretz countered that it shouldn't be too much of a bother to shoppers who will have other options. The bill exempts products in liquid, liquid capsule, and gel capsule forms in which pseudoephedrine is not the only active ingredient.

"It should be no big deal for the consumer since it comes in other forms. It is just the tablet form that is easily used in manufacture of crystal meth," he said. "I would be happier if they took the tablet forms off the market. There is not a great need to have it in that form."

Koretz said he has been meeting with industry lobbyists and is hopeful they will not oppose the bills in California.

"We will have to battle the pharmaceutical industry. I am hopeful we will not have to battle too hard with the retailers and the pharmacists. Hopefully, we will be able to work out something," said Koretz, who is looking to law enforcement groups, HIV advocates, and the gay community to support the measures. ▼

Tina

◀ page 1

not a welcome part of a healthy community or neighborhood, said Stop AIDS spokesman Jason Riggs.

"Our attempt at Stop AIDS is not only to keep new people from falling into addiction to crystal but to change the community norm right now that crystal use is okay. We are taking a page from the anti-smoking campaigns," said Riggs.

Unlike the anonymous poster on Craigslist, Riggs said the agency is trying to avoid demonizing those who use crystal and are seeking help.

"This campaign doesn't ostracize people in heavy use trying to get out of it," he said.

Stop AIDS is also putting up new anti-crystal ads in over 100 bathrooms around the city, in establishments with predominantly gay clientele. The posters read "Are you up to speed?" with HIV written out in a speed-like substance. The lower left side says "Crystal use can make you 400 percent more likely to get HIV."

Next week Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who has made combating crystal use by gay men a top priority since being elected in 2002, is expected to announce the members of a new community task force on crystal. The task force will tackle issues over use and abuse of the drug as well as to coordinate efforts between the health department, AIDS agencies, harm reduction organizations, and substance abuse services.

Along with the increased efforts at those gay men who either have never used crystal or are recreational users, those addicted

to the drug also have several new programs to turn to for help.

Crystal Meth Anonymous has launched support groups again in San Francisco, with meetings now seven days a week throughout the city. Information on the times and locations can be found at www.crystallmeth.org.

The founders of CMA have launched this year a new Web site — www.xtwkrs.org — that includes forums, blogs, a private message system, and an online chat for not only crystal users or those in recovery but also for people who have a friend or loved one addicted to meth and need support or advice.

"We are trying to build a community on the Web. People can find a date on there or go to the lounge if they're up at three in the morning and want to talk to someone," said Nicholas R., who acts as moderator for the San Francisco version of the site.

With advertisements for PNP — Internet shorthand for party and play, where men hook up to use crystal together and then have sex — ubiquitous in many Web chat rooms and hookup sites, xtwkrs.org is meant to be a safe place for anyone fearful they will be tempted to use again if they go online, he said.

"A lot of people involved with meth here in San Francisco are online to get it and hook up with people. This way you can use those skills you were already using to help you stay away from those other rooms that may get you into trouble," said Nicholas R. "People get online and find themselves going to hookup rooms. They get afraid of turning on their computer because they can always go to rooms where they can find

meth and start using it."

As moderator, his main task is to ensure no one is soliciting drugs in the chat room. Visitors to the site are allowed to talk about using drugs but they cannot be looking for drugs or hooking up with drugs.

"We are trying to make the computer your friend again, your community, so we can all meet up in the chat room clean and sober," said Nicholas R.

Michael Siever, Ph.D., director of the Stonewall Project, a harm reduction agency that works solely with gay and bi men and which recently redesigned and expanded its own Web site www.stonewallproject.org, said he is glad to see CMA revived in San Francisco and that the two approaches to drug addiction can work in tandem.

"It is good to see CMA thriving again because it had died and its absence was felt," he said. "I am really pleased we have gotten past the kind of polarization between harm reduction and abstinence-based programs. People have gradually realized they are not in opposition to each other. Abstinence is obviously the ultimate harm reduction."

Through a targeted capacity expansion grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the city will receive \$500,000 a year for the next three years to help expand capacity at Stonewall and its collaborative work with Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, and at Continuum's Tenderloin center.

"Stonewall doesn't have a waiting list anymore because of these new monies," said Siever. "The bottom line is the more the better and the more different options for people. They should all be there." ▼

City receives cut in Ryan White funds

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco's share of federal HIV and AIDS funding shrank again this year, with the city losing more than \$1.5 million in Ryan White CARE Act funds.

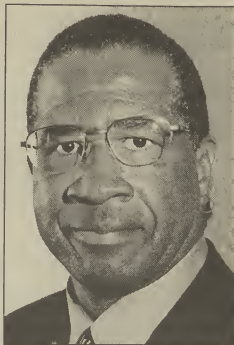
For fiscal year 2005, San Francisco will receive roughly \$28.3 million in its CARE Act Title 1 allotment, a 5.2 percent decrease from the \$29.8 million it received in 2004.

The cut is not nearly as dire as last March, when the city lost \$4 million and numerous services were eliminated. The cut represented a 12 percent decrease from the \$33.9 million San Francisco received in fiscal year 2003.

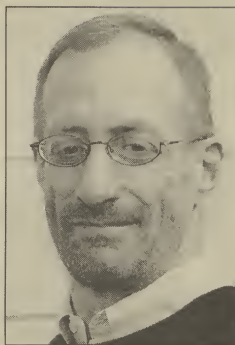
"The good news is we will not - from a care point of view - be eliminating any services. Last year the cut was so huge from the preceding year. This year we are reducing some of the lower categories but the CARE Council did not recommend eliminations," said Jimmy Loyce, director of the health department's AIDS Office, which oversees disbursement of the CARE Act funds. "We do not under any circumstances want to see a reduction in our Title 1 award. We don't like it."

The news is just the first of more cuts to come in AIDS funding as both the state and city grapple with budget deficits. The mayor is currently reviewing budget proposals presented by department heads to help close a \$113 million deficit. The Health Commission has yet to hear and vote on the Department of Public Health's budget but is expected to do so later this month or early in April.

"There will be AIDS cuts in the Department of Public Health budget but we don't know the



DPH's Jimmy Loyce



Randy Allgaier

specifics yet. It will probably be between \$1 million to \$2 million in general fund services," said Loyce.

Due to language in the CARE Act, San Francisco receives a certain percentage cut each year, which has ranged from 3 to 5 percent, in its formula funding. This year the city also saw its supplemental funding cut but received a slight increase in funds for minority AIDS initiatives. The MAI award is \$566,592 this year.

To deal with the expected decrease in funding, the HIV Health Services Planning Council, or CARE Council, decided in October to reduce various service categories by certain percentage amounts. Most services, from dental care and meals to housing programs and mental health and substance abuse services will be cut by 6.65 percent. Four categories will see a 15 percent cut, or a total of \$57,853, which are outpatient substance services, integrated case management, residential mental health, and complementary therapies.

"I don't think the outcry will

be as severe as it was in the past," predicted CARE Council Co-chair Randy Allgaier. "We will be looking at some across the board decreases to all categories. The good part here is we won't be seeing elimination, most likely. I can't say for sure, though."

As it begins its priority setting process for next year, the CARE Council is hosting a community meeting Thursday, March 24 at 5 p.m. in the Rainbow Room at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. The CARE Council is seeking input from the community to assist in its community needs assessment and upcoming priority setting and allocations meetings.

Additional meetings will be scheduled throughout the community during 2005 in order to seek input from a variety of sources. The meeting will seek to obtain the input of persons living with HIV/AIDS and assess their needs that can be met by the planning council in the coming year.

For additional information, contact Leah Crask at (415) 674-4768. ▼

HIV names bill

◀ page 2

those sentiments, saying, "I think names reporting makes no sense to talk about unless you are going to guarantee access to care. It is irresponsible for the CDC to keep pushing names reporting without providing care."

Groups like the Stop AIDS Project and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation are opposed to HIV names reporting, saying it would result in even more people opting not to get tested for HIV.

"We would say we are opposed to it. We don't think it is an effective way of ensuring people get tested. I think it is an impediment to testing," said Stop AIDS Executive Director Robert McMullin.

SFAF officials are waiting to see the final language of Soto's bill before taking a position on it. For now, the agency is more focused on pushing the CDC to accept California's HIV code-based reporting system.

"We have been focused the last couple of months trying to persuade the CDC that the states should have the right to choose what form of reporting system they want to have. If we can persuade them our system is accurate, then that gives us local choice to make our own decisions based on local interest," said Dana Van Gorder, SFAF's director of state

and local affairs. "The CDC has been unwilling to give technical assistance to states with code-based systems. If we could only have that technological assistance our system could be effective."

Those opposed to HIV names-based reporting may be fighting a losing battle, however. Thirty-seven states already use names-based reporting, including four of the five largest: New York, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey.

And there are signs that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger could support seeing California added to the list. The California Performance Review, commissioned by the governor, recommends that the state abandon its code-based system and implement names-based reporting.

According to the report, if California chooses to retain its code-based HIV reporting system and secure its fair share of federal funds, it must demonstrate that its system meets CDC criteria and negotiate acceptance of its data. The original budget for HIV reporting included \$235,000 for evaluation, and the State Office of AIDS recently estimated that it could cost up to \$500,000 to formally evaluate the system and determine whether the system meets CDC's minimum performance standards for completeness, timeliness, accuracy, and risk information. However, the Office of AIDS does not have

funds available to evaluate its HIV reporting system.

"The code-based system is labor intensive, less accurate, and more complex than the name-based system and risks the loss of federal funding. California should make its HIV reporting system consistent with its name-based AIDS reporting system, and improve its AIDS reporting to identify additional unreported cases," concludes the review. ▼

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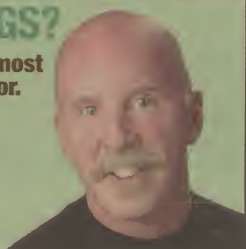
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Real estate agent Jay Margrey shows his love of both San Francisco and Palm Springs with his license plate.

Gays heat up desert real estate market

by Ed Walsh

Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden shook his head in disbelief when asked by this reporter recently about the sharp rise in the price of Palm Springs real estate. But Bay Area residents might just as likely shake their heads over the relative bargains there, with the average house or condominium selling for 40 percent to 50 percent less than what you would expect to pay in the Bay Area.

Buyers from Northern California make up a big chunk of the Palm Springs real estate market and many of those are gays and lesbians who are attracted to the

desert's beauty, quieter way of life, and gay-welcoming environment. Comic impresario Danny Williams, a longtime San Francisco resident, was one of those who made the pilgrimage south. He moved in 2000 while recovering from debilitating complications from an operation to treat a heel spur. He got his real estate license and sells Palm Springs real estate for a living but he still works regularly as the comic and emcee for RSVP cruises and he gets back to San Francisco once a month to host a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund at the Edge bar.

Williams estimates that up to 75 percent of the buyers with whom he works are from San Francisco. Many, he says, are first time homebuyers who have been priced out of the Bay Area while others are buying a second home or an investment property.

Williams's best advice is for buyers to "not be in a panic mode," but rather wait for a property that best suits your needs.

How much can you expect to pay for a home in Palm Springs?

Williams notes that despite the recent rapid appreciation, it's still possible to buy a detached house for \$400,000. That's in contrast to San Francisco where that price would be considered cheap for a one-bedroom condominium.

Longtime Realtor and former San Franciscan Jay Margrey noted that prices in Palm Springs have gone up about 30 percent a year for the past six years. For example, a \$500,000 home with a pool in Palm Springs cost \$180,000 just six years ago, he said. And the rapid appreciation shows little signs of slowing, he added.

Margrey explained that one of the biggest differences in Palm Springs real estate is that about half of the property is "lease land," in most cases, that means that the land is owned by Native American tribes. Most leases are for 99 years. For example, a one-bedroom condominium in the modern La Palme complex was recently on the market for \$199,900. The yearly lease amount is \$1,308.

The term "fee simple" means that when you buy the home, you are also buying the land, so you

won't be hit with a lease bill. The tradeoff is that you will either get a smaller house for the same money, or you will have to pay more for the house up front.

Can you expect to pay less for real estate if you are willing to buy outside Palm Springs city limits?

Yes, you can expect to pay a little less, said Palm Springs Realtor and former San Franciscan Alan Emery. Emery explained that a three-bedroom house in a gated community in Cathedral City selling for about \$600,000 would go for around \$650,000 to \$675,000 in Palm Springs.

Emery noted that Cathedral City is very gay-friendly with several gay clubs and resorts and just a short drive to neighboring Palm Springs. He added that homes in Cathedral City tend to be more modern because more new developments have been built there.

Emery said that the community of Desert Hot Springs, north of Highway 10, 20 to 25 minutes outside of Palm Springs, is becoming increasingly popular with gay real estate buyers. Desert Hot Springs is one of the towns that visitors pass by on the way from Palm Springs to Joshua Tree National Park.

Palm Springs real estate broker Rick Olds, of Zephyr Real Estate, cautioned that Bay Area buyers shouldn't be blinded by the comparable bargains in the desert.

He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that some sellers have been known to take advantage of buyers from the north who aren't familiar with Palm Springs area prices.

Olds recalled attending an open house about five years ago and hearing sellers say: "Oh, they are from the Bay Area, they will pay anything."

Olds worked in the real estate business in San Francisco for 15 years before relocating to Palm Springs five years ago. He opened Zephyr's Palm Springs office three years ago. And more recently, Zephyr has opened another office in Rancho Mirage.

Olds advised that buyers should hook up with an agent who is familiar with the market and can represent their best inter-

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The word on HIV:

Ask your doctor how REYATAZ, in HIV combination therapy, can help you
fight HIV your way.

Individual results may vary.

INDICATION: Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in both patients who have taken or have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, or Vfend® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ **Can help raise your T-cells**
- ◆ **Can help lower your viral load to undetectable***
- ◆ **Low chance of diarrhea** (shown in clinical trials)[†]
- ◆ **Two pills taken once-a-day** (with a snack or meal)[‡]

* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

† REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

‡ People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

You and your doctor can **fight HIV your way.**


REYATAZ®
 (atazanavir sulfate) 150 mg/200 mg capsules

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)

(generic name = atazanavir sulfate) Capsules

R_x ONLY

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ.
Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate)?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?

Tell your healthcare provider:

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.

- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylexgonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:
 - CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
 - CRIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
 - Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILLOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROLONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together.

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIDQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCO® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTIOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ

may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

* VIDEX® is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. COUMADIN® and SUSTIVA® are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.



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Revised October 2004

COMMUNITY NEWS

HRC

◀ page 1

board, praised the decision.

"I'm very happy that we were able to find such a talented national leader with such a proven track record in progressive politics," Wiener told the *Bay Area Reporter*. He added that Solmonese has shown he can work with a broad array of organizations.

Solmonese is a Massachusetts native who graduated from Boston University in 1987. He began his career as an aide in the office of Governor Michael Dukakis and played a significant fundraising role in Representative Barney Frank's (D-Massachusetts) 1990 congressional campaign. He came out in his early 20s and has been a volunteer with HRC.

Solmonese expects to take the helm at HRC on April 11. His annual salary is \$225,000, according to HRC.

Vic Basile co-chaired the search committee that hired Solmonese. In an exclusive interview he said, "Joe is quite a charismatic speaker... he is a tested political operative with a long track record, way outside the Beltway. We're satisfied that he has the skills necessary to do a great job."

Solmonese "has traveled the country every other weekend" raising money for Emily's List, Basile said. "The organization has

done very well and he has done all of the fundraising, and all of the management, and all of the politics in the top job there for the last two years. He has done enormously well over there, you can't argue with success."

HRC and its last president, Cheryl Jacques, ostensibly parted ways over differences in management approaches, so it is understandable that the search committee focused on that area, insiders said. Solmonese currently manages a staff almost as large as the one at HRC.

"We need somebody who can help people grow in their jobs and will feel nurtured by him," Basile said.

Chicago political consultant Michael Bauer has worked with Solmonese "on a couple of races" and called the decision "a great hire. Joe is very politically savvy, he has great interpersonal skills, and he is very smart."

"The gay community is in desperate need of allies right now," said Ken Sherrill, the doyen of gay political science who is a professor at Hunter University, part of New York University, and has been active in Democratic politics in New York City. "In general, the problems that we face are not unlike those faced by Emily's List... except that women's rights are much more popular than ours are."

Sherrill said many of those who attack gays use it as "a veiled attack on women's rights." He is

hopeful that Solmonese might strengthen the ties between those two communities and open political doors in Washington.

But for the head of a powerful, highly visible political organization, Solmonese barely casts a public shadow. A Google search of his name turned up just over a hundred hits, most of which are listings as a cosponsor or participant in fundraising events. The next largest references concern the rumor of his appointment, and then saying nice things about his former boss when Mary Beth Cahill went to head up John Kerry's presidential campaign.

A search of the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* drew no substantive hits. Nor did a search of the Emily's List Web site, paging through the news releases, founder Ellen Malcolm always made their public statements.

Basile was surprised to learn that. "I don't know what to say to you. We're satisfied that he has the skills to be a very good spokesperson." He noted that Solmonese "is a man running a women's organization. It is important that women be up-front in that regard."

"The spotlight shines on the women, we are in the background," Solmonese said of his job at Emily's List.

Political spectrum

"HRC to red states: Drop dead?" is how gay conservative pundit Stephen H. Miller responded to rumors of Solmonese's possible appointment on his blog.

"Selecting an abortion advocate identified exclusively with electing Democrats would ensure that, going forward, HRC continues to

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A conversation with Joe Solmonese

Excerpts from a conversation with Joe Solmonese on the morning he was announced as the new president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Why HRC?

I have been associated with this organization since the fall that I came out, when I was 22. As a gay man, given all that has happened over the last year, I could not be more drawn to this place and this work.

Biggest challenges

The biggest challenge that we need to take on is moving out across the country, reintroducing ourselves to America, and beginning this conversation again about why our equality is important to us, but also why it ought to be important to them.

Bringing religious leaders, corporate leaders, and political leaders together to have that dialogue and to elevate that in a meaningful way is very important to me.

Speaking to the red states

At Emily's List, we have a real record of getting things done. What I bring to this is the experience of walking into a state like Kansas and saying, "How can we get a pro-choice Democratic governor elected here? What about the social fabric? What about the political climate? What about the issues agenda?"

Legislation and elections

Given the dynamics around choice, we have become much more focused on legislation; every week it seems there is a different assault on choice, either in a state or here in Washington.

...As we advance this [pro-gay] legislation, we don't just fight it here in Washington, we have to go out around the country and fight it from the bottom up... It is affecting change at the grassroots and in the mindset of the states that creates an appetite and an enthusiasm for electing [supportive officials].

Marriage

It is in everything that we do, it is what we are working toward. ... As a political issue in the last election, it was not nearly as a divisive issue that people would have you believe. That election was decided on one thing — fear.

... We have marriage in Massachusetts and a natural reaction to that in a handful of states around the country. To me, that is the ebb and flow of social change. I like to say, it's as though you gave people the final exam on the first day of class. We have not immersed ourselves in an education around this issue — around why we seek marriage. That is a process that we have to work at.

How to judge his effectiveness

Five to seven years down the road is key for us. The more successful we are at working in states throughout the country, as we approach the next [congressional] redistricting in this country, if we do what we need to do, that is going to be a wave that we are going to ride. ▼

— Bob Roehr

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Crystal Meth and the Gay Community

Meet author, **Frank Sanello** on Thursday, March 17,
7–9pm at the LGBT Center (1800 Market St. @ Octavia)

Are you wondering why there is so much concern about crystal use? Do you have questions about crystal meth that need to be answered? Are you interested in doing something about crystal use in the gay community?

If any of your answers were yes, then join us in an honest and factual discussion with Frank Sanello, author of *Tweakers: How Crystal Meth is Ravaging Gay America* and Tom Kenedy of Internet Sexuality Informational Services (ISIS) moderated by Tom Musbach, News Director of PlanetOut, Inc.

Organized by the STOP AIDS Project and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.
For more information call 415.575.0150 x229 or www.stopaids.org



STOP AIDS PROJECT

Laramie cop blasts ABC's 20/20

by Zak Szymanski

The police chief who led the Matthew Shepard murder investigation has publicly admonished the staff of ABC's 20/20 for allegedly distorting the facts of the case and lying to sources in order to produce a biased news program about Shepard and his killers that aired last fall.

The openly gay Shepard, 21, was brutally beaten in Laramie, Wyoming in October 1998 by two men who had offered him a ride home from a bar. He was discovered 18 hours later, covered in blood and tied to a fence, and he died in a hospital a few days later. Suspects Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson had targeted Shepard, they said, because he was gay and had expressed romantic interest in the men. Shepard's murder made him an LGBT martyr and an instant symbol of gay oppression everywhere.

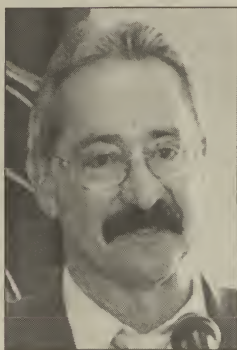
Speaking to a legal conference that convened in Atlanta from

February 23-25, Dave O'Malley, now vice mayor of Laramie, told attendees that ABC entered his home last year under false pretenses when the station interviewed him for "A Murder In Laramie: The Mystery And The Myth."

The November 26, 2004 episode pieced together anecdotes and interviews with Laramie locals and others in an attempt to paint Shepard as a suicidal, HIV-positive, methamphetamine user and re-frame his 1999 murder not as an antigay crime by strangers, but as drug-induced violence by acquaintances motivated by robbery.

The show made it look as though O'Malley agreed with or could not refute its claims, he said, when in fact he was never given a chance to address the issues raised.

"I asked them if their show had any particular angle because I would like the opportunity to respond to questions," O'Malley said. "Again and again the producers said it was an objective news



Former Police Chief Dave O'Malley at an Atlanta conference last month.

piece."

Far from objective, the 20/20 episode actually strived to create an entirely new story around Shepard's murder based upon McKinney's recent statements that he lied about killing Shepard because he was gay and that he was in fact simply strung out on drugs, which caused him to become violent when Shepard put his hand on his knee.

In many ways the program actually made an even stronger case for an antigay motive, by portraying convicted killer McKinney as a liar and as a closeted bisexual who became enraged when Shepard made a romantic pass at him, a classic hate crime scenario. The show also offered very little new information that wasn't already a

part of the original investigation; robbery was always thought to have been the original motive in the attack, but it was Shepard's sexual orientation, said O'Malley, that offered his murderers an easy target and a convenient "gay panic" excuse.

"McKinney himself said he only had to hit Matt one time to get his wallet," said O'Malley. "Once he gave up that wallet, that's where the robbery motivation ends."

Nevertheless, anchorwoman Elizabeth Vargas's leading questions and commentary made clear that the show was trying to eliminate Shepard's sexuality from the picture, at one point attempting to rewrite history by dismissing the suspects' chilling gay panic message as concocted and therefore not rooted in bias. It was also not disputed that McKinney and Henderson pretended to be gay in order to lure Shepard to their van, and O'Malley pointed out that both men must have expected a romantic situation to unfold considering their statements that Shepard offered them money in exchange for sex.

Other discrepancies in the 20/20 episode include the show's insistence that McKinney had been high on meth in the moments leading up to Shepard's murder; O'Malley said that Kristen Price, McKinney's girlfriend, originally gave a series of detailed statements relating to specifics of the crime, all of which were corroborated by evidence. One of those statements included the in-

formation that the suspects had not had any meth for several days because they were broke.

"They were scraping together nickels and dimes just to buy alcohol that night," said O'Malley.

O'Malley said that after his 20/20 interview — during which he answered some standard questions which had nothing to do with the premise of the show — he found a copy of an e-mail sent to Vargas from ABC news colleagues which warned her that O'Malley was "highly skilled" and that her job was to disprove his case for a hate crime motive in Shepard's murder.

"They sat there and they lied to me," said O'Malley, adding that other information excluded by 20/20 includes the suspects' behavior in jail, from letters that reference Shepard's sexuality to high-fives the men were given by sympathetic inmates.

ABC did not return phone calls by press time seeking comment.

O'Malley said that the Shepard case has always been complex in nature, but drugs and robbery do not discount the role that Shepard's sexuality played in making him a victim. Even while denying an antigay motive, the men still claim that they thought they could get away with violence by claiming rage against an unwanted gay advance.

"Only three people know what happened that night," said O'Malley. "Matt's dead. The other two are convicted killers and known liars." ▼



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James Hormel
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Peggy Moore
Donna Sachet



B. Organizations

Equality California
Inter-Club Fund

NCLR (National Center for Lesbian Rights)

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C. Pink Brick

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Oakland

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Moore talked about her involvement in the Sistahs Steppin' in Pride Dyke March and said she would like the city to bring a WNBA team to Oakland. She did not, however, support public financing of professional sports teams, and all of the candidates also opposed that prospect. Several noted how the city must take millions out of its budget annually to pay for costs associated with the Oakland Raiders.

Regarding bringing businesses to the city, candidates offered various ideas to "take the hole out of the doughnut" as the question stated, about how to deal with the "ring of retail" that surrounds the city.

Garrison, who touted his "five-star" plan for the city, noted that the large shopping complex in neighboring Emeryville was originally slated for Oakland. "We lost that opportunity," he said. Adding that he was for strong neighborhoods, Garrison nonetheless said he is in favor of more businesses in commercial corridors.

"You can bowl down Broadway at 9 o'clock at night," he said, alluding to the lack of nightlife in the city.

Moore said that the city must fight the "negative impression" some people have of Oakland. "I do think building the downtown would put positive energy into Oakland," she said. "I'm in favor of neighborhoods bringing more pride to Oakland."

During the February 28 forum at Lakeshore Baptist Church, the candidates were asked about crime and the police. Several candidates pointed to the fact that the city has paid millions of dollars in settlements to victims of alleged police misconduct, which affects the amount of money available for

other services in the budget.

Moore pointed out that voters just approved Measure Y, which will put additional officers on the streets. But she said a better relationship must be built between the department and city residents.

"We need a more trusting environment," she said.

Garrison called for community policing, while Allison said efforts should be made to have Oakland officers live in the city, "not Antioch." Drake said the department is in "disarray," while Kernighan talked of how she helped organize neighborhood crime prevention councils.

Eight of the candidates were supportive of medical marijuana and Measure Z, which voters passed last year. The law, which calls for taxing cannabis sales in the city, cannot be implemented because marijuana is still classified as an illegal drug. Kakishiba said he opposed Measure Z because of its implications on race and class issues and said he would rather fight the "war on drugs" at the state and federal levels.

Allison got off the most humorous line at Friday's forum when she unintentionally noted that Measure Z might lead to an increase in the city's economy. "Measure Z was intended to change the nature of the drug war," she said. "The city has a paid lobbyist [in Sacramento] and they should lobby for that. It would have tremendous tax opportunities and business opportunities, and make Oakland a destination spot." ▼

Moore will host the first of her "Community Conversations" tonight (Thursday, March 10) on gentrification issues at her campaign office, 3217 Lakeshore Avenue (under Monkey Yoga), from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Palm Springs home to two lesbian resorts

by Ed Walsh

The Casitas Laquita and the neighboring Queen of Hearts are rarities in the world of gay travel: the Palm Springs resorts cater to lesbian travelers. The hotels also illustrate the differences between gay men and lesbians and men and women in general.

"Women are just different," summed up Joanna Funaro, who along with her partner, Denise Roberson, owns Casitas Laquita, a 15-unit resort on 450 East Palm Canyon Drive.

"Women are just more reserved," nodded Roberson in agreement.

"Women tend to be nesters," echoed Michelle Secor, who owns Queen of Hearts with her partner, Bernadette Montenegro.

Queen of Hearts is Palm Springs' first lesbian-friendly hotel. It was established in 1969 by Edie Adams and her partner, Pat McGrath, and was known as The Desert Knight for 30 years. The nine-unit property has been completely renovated and is impeccably maintained. Its sister property, the Desert Hearts Inn, is just across the street and has three units.

The women's hotels all feature kitchens in the rooms. The owners say that at least 90 percent of the women regularly cook in the rooms. That's in contrast to the men's resorts, many of which have kitchens that are infrequently used.

Unlike most of the men's resorts, Casitas Laquita is not clothing optional. Queen of Hearts allows women to sunbathe topless. There's also another difference: the breakfast buffet; the women's resorts serve breakfast individually to each guest's room.

"If there was a buffet, they would just grab breakfast and go back to their room," explained Roberson, whose partner, Funaro, has developed a loyal following at Casitas Laquita for her homemade coffee cake.

Casitas Laquita provides a unique place for women to socialize and be entertained: an underground wine cellar. And yes, it's literally underground, in a basement under the property. The cellar showcases occasional concerts and special events.

Why are there more than three dozen resorts in the Palm Springs area that cater to gay men and only two for women?



Casitas Laquita owners Joanna Funaro, left, and her partner Denise Roberson are at home in Palm Springs. Their resort is one of two that caters to the lesbian community.

Roberson, who formerly worked for Westin Hotels, said her biggest competition is from the mainstream hotels, from Motel 6 to the Ritz Carlton. She noted that most women feel comfortable checking into the same hotel room together whereas gay men may be made to feel uncomfortable doing so in a hotel that is not at least gay-friendly.

Another difference, the owners of Casitas Laquita explained, is that only about 5 percent of their guests are single women. That contrasts with many of the gay male resorts where unattached men are in the majority. Another difference is that unlike virtually all the gay male resorts, Casitas Laquita does not have a communal hot tub.

"The difference between men and women is that men like to go into the hot tub together," explained Roberson.

plained Roberson.

Casitas Laquita does have an outdoor hot tub but it is part of a private patio in one of its suites. But for those women who want to try the communal hot tub thing, Queen of Hearts' annex, Desert Hearts Inn, does provide one that's available for guests staying at either property.

Casitas Laquita and Queen of Hearts are just a couple of blocks apart. Queen of Hearts is on 435 Avenida Olancha, a quiet cul-de-sac that is home to several permanent lesbian residents. Secor quipped that she sometimes refers to it as "lesbian lane."

Secor encapsulated the attitude of the women running both resorts: "I'm in love and I love what I do. If you do what you love, things will work out."

Room rates start at \$105 at the Queen of Hearts and \$135 at Ca-

sitas Laquita.

By the way, Palm Springs' gay scene overall shows no signs of slowing down. The two newest resorts are the Century and the Movie Star Hotel. Century is on the site of the old Alexander resort in the Warm Sands area. The new owner gutted the Alexander and replaced it in grand mid-century modern style.

The Movie Star Hotel is on East Palm Canyon Drive. It used to be a straight hotel. The new

owners, a gay male couple from New York, took it over in October 2004. Each of the hotel's seven units is dedicated to a star. The "Cher" room, of course, is the most popular. ▼

For information and links to the resorts in Palm Springs, visit www.palm-springs.org. Information on the Cathedral City gay scene can be found on www.psbottomline.com.



www.queenofhearts.com

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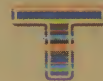
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Real estate

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ests. He said that although buyers can see much available property on the Internet, a good buyer's agent could separate fact from hype or exaggeration.

How do you find a good buyer's agent? Besides, of course, calling his office, Olds suggests would-be buyers get referrals from others and interview different agents to find one with whom they feel comfortable.

The broker added a good agent would fill buyers in on local customs. One of those customs, he explained, is that sales are often negotiated so that the seller pays half of the closing costs, something that is virtually unheard of in the Bay Area.

So if you've been priced out of the Bay Area market, how much can you expect to pay for a starter home in Palm Springs?

For a basic one-bedroom con-

dominium, expect to pay in the mid \$100,000s, said Realtor Larry Bendelson, who is in the real estate business with his twin brother, Steve Bendelson, who also happens to be gay. A two-bedroom will run in the \$200,000 range, he added.

Larry Bendelson explained that although it's still a sellers market in Palm Springs area real estate, it has cooled a little.

"The market is not as frenzied as it was this time last year," Bendelson said. "There's more inventory and more choices. Inventory has doubled since last year."

Bendelson said that last spring there were only about 1,400 units on the market compared with 3,000 now. Bendelson estimates that supply and demand would be in balance if there were about 3,500 to 4,000 units on the market in the Palm Springs desert area.

Besides the demand from gay buyers, Bendelson also noted that a new generation of retirees would help keep the demand up.

"Baby boomers finally started arriving," he said.

He noted that a study found that one out of every two people buying real estate now in the Palm Springs area is gay. The gay demand has spawned a big increase in the number of gay real estate agents in the area.

"Being gay and being in real estate in Palm Springs is like being a hair dresser in West Hollywood," Bendelson quipped.

Where are Palm Springs real estate prices heading?

Of course, that's anyone's guess but a recent article in the Palm Springs-based *Desert Sun* newspaper quoted an economist who predicted home values would rise only 3 percent to 4 percent this year. Other experts the paper cited said property would likely rise 10 percent to 18 percent. The experts were also quick to disagree with any suggestion that the region is headed for a real estate bubble that would result in huge depreciation. ▼



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Repeal of DADT launched

by Bob Roehr

The first legislative attempt to repeal the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 2.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR1059) is sponsored by Representative Marty Meehan (Massachusetts), the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Conventional Threats and Capabilities. He is joined by 61 cosponsors. The lone Republican is Christopher Shays (Connecticut), though others have said they will join as cosponsors.

"The strain on our military personnel is one of the key national security challenges facing this country today. In a time of war, it is outrageous that our military continues to discharge thousands of experienced and dedicated service members — many with critical skills in the war on terror — for reasons that have nothing to do with their conduct in uniform or their willingness to serve their country," Meehan said.

Eight senior retired military officers are supporting the repeal in an effort organized by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

At Meehan's request, the General Accounting Office conducted an analysis of the cost of the 10-year-old policy. Its report, released on February 25, estimated that it

had cost the Pentagon more than \$200 million to recruit and train personnel to replace those kicked out under DADT.

Money is but one of the issues. Many of those who have been discharged have language and other skills that are in short supply in the military.

And now bodies are in short supply too. In testimony before the Senate on March 2, the Army said that during the previous month only 5,114 recruits entered boot camp, 27 percent below its goal. The ongoing war in Iraq and likely deployment there is hindering recruitment.

"It is much more difficult to talk about repeal in the abstract," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive

director of SLDN. This bill gives SLDN the opportunity to raise the issue with members of Congress. Osburn said the Army's recruitment shortfall and its desire to increase manpower by 30,000 makes it "a good time to talk about this."

Osburn acknowledged that hearings on this measure, or a companion bill that will be introduced in the Senate, are not assured and a vote is not likely during this session of Congress. But it is a way to begin the education process, he noted.

He has been pleased by the guarded openness to consider a change in policy by unnamed Pentagon officials and the so far muted response from the antigay right. Several retired senior military offi-

cers support repeal of the ban.

"The dynamics today are very different from 10 years ago" when "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was adopted, Osburn said.

Eric Stern, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, said, "A policy that dismisses qualified personnel based on personal prejudice threatens the security of our nation. This legislation will enable our armed forces to better protect the American homeland."

"The report of the GAO, issued last week, makes it clear that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' harms military readiness," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

"Americans don't care whether the person who catches [Osama]



SLDN's C. Dixon Osburn

bin Laden is gay or straight, they just want him caught," said David Smith, vice president of the Human Rights Campaign. ▼

Pacific Center

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makes commitments and follows through."

In 1997 the center was mired in crisis, debt, and low credibility, according to Thomas. The former executive director left, the board had dwindled to four officers, the United Way discontinued funding, and the center instituted cutbacks causing anger between the staff, board, and community.

"There was concern if it was going to be around," said Thomas.

That has changed. The center now receives grants from the California, San Francisco, Horizon,

and Haas foundations, and Berkeley and Alameda County contracts.

But the board realizes that the stress of grant writing while managing a nonprofit might burn out future directors.

"It's just too difficult for an executive director to carry that whole load," said Thomas. "Our strategic plan is looking at how to support ourselves better. We definitely want someone with experience, who needs to understand grant writing. They won't have to do lots of it."

Since its 1973 founding, the Pacific Center — the third oldest LGBT center in the U.S. — has historically been a place to help people come out, but those involved are now transforming it into an all-purpose resource, offering education on relationships, parenting, and legal affairs — "the business of being gay," Gurucharri called it.

"Once they come out, they evaporate back into the community," he said. "We want them to come back and feel at home."

Gurucharri said he feels proud of the center's community-owned

reputation and progress in becoming more inclusive of the socially isolated — the disabled, people living with HIV, and cancer survivors.

Gurucharri said the center has created an attractive, healing environment for its 900 clients and 180 volunteers, interns, and professional marriage and family therapists.

"We've become a magnet for people to walk in that door and feel fully honored. So, the community feels safe, feels celebrated, and they work their butts off," he said.

This year the center is on track to increase annual income from its sliding scale client fees by 100 percent from the \$38,000 per year it brought in a few years ago. In one-on-one, couples, and group counseling (comprising half the center's budget), interns supervised by professionals and following the model provided by San Francisco's New Leaf: Services for Our Community, have led to a state-regulated intern training program with a strong reputation.

"We get more applicants than

we can accept because of our level of training," said Thomas.

Increased funds have also led to greater self-sufficiency in the youth program, which has evolved from previously poorly-funded peer groups to a \$80,000 to \$90,000-a-year program, providing a safe drop-in space, counseling, self-governing leadership training, and group support led by trained young adults.

Gurucharri said the center deals with the challenge of ageism when youth services are offered under the same roof as comprehensive adult services.

"We're very limited by our space," said Gurucharri.

The staff and board invite youth, donors, and interested community members to Gurucharri's farewell party this Sunday, March 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, in Berkeley. People can bring food.

"The most important thing is that they show up," said Thomas.

"We may cry," said Gurucharri, "we don't know." ▼



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Friends like these

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nia repealed its sodomy law regarding consenting adults. Thank you, **Willie Brown**, for that groundbreaking effort. Since *Lawrence v. Texas* was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, many might forget that early fight, decided on a tie vote by then-Lieutenant Governor **Merv Dymally**. Both Brown and Dymally are African American and fought tirelessly for LGBT rights when it wasn't easy. Let's keep that history alive.

Speaking of Brown, he appointed more openly HIV-positive commissioners than any mayor in San Francisco's history. Now, there's a Health Commission spot that had traditionally been held by an HIV-positive person, including **Mike Shriver**, **Ron Hill**, and the late **Ronnie "Chata" Ashley**. The Redevelopment Agency, which administers the federal AIDS housing program is losing its HIV-positive commissioner, the excellent **Mark Dunlop**.

Note to Mayor **Gavin Newsom**: it's important for people living with HIV to have a voice on these commissions that set AIDS policy. There's some terrific leadership from our queer legislators on bills my Sacramento friends tell me will pass, with Senator **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco) fighting to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the California National Guard and Assemblyman **John Laird** (D-Santa Cruz) carrying

AB1400, Equality California's bill to expand non-discrimination laws in our state.

Those who said nasty things about Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** during the campaign are being proven wrong. Ammiano and his staff **Angela Calvillo** and **Tomas Lee** are fighting every day for District 9 and the city. Up next: saving St. Luke's Hospital from the evil corporate giant Sutter Health, which is looking to radically reduce or even close this needed Mission resource.

The folks over at Out and Equal Workplace Advocates have relocated their March 11 "Pride Power Breakfast" — again. Initially, the event — featuring Assemblyman **Mark Leno** — was to be held at IBM's offices, but on Monday, Out and Equal sent out an e-mail stating that due to popular demand, the event was being moved to the Hyatt Regency downtown. Oops. With the hotel labor dispute in full swing (and the Hyatt being one of the 14 hotels boycotted by union supporters), organizers quickly changed course and the 8 a.m. event has moved to the City Club, 155 Sansome Street. Said Out and Equal's **Alisha Klatt** Tuesday, when asked why the event was moved to the Hyatt in the first place, "It was an oversight." There's a suggested \$10 donation at the door.

Congratulations to **David Gonzalez**, who was the scheduler for **Susan Leal**'s mayoral campaign and managed Judge **Nancy Davis**'s, campaign. Gonzalez landed in Portland, Oregon as a

staffer to Commissioner **Sam Adams**, that city's first out council member.

Best wishes to **Joyce Newstat** as she departs from the Newsom administration, "that damn lesbian" **Roberta Achtenberg** as she departs the Chamber of Commerce, and to **Wayne Friday** as he enjoys his retirement.

In the mix

If you want to fix the Democratic Party, join San Francisco Democrats for a symposium on Saturday, March 12 at the State Building, 455 Golden Gate at 10 a.m. Speakers include State Senator **Carole Migden**, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and local party chair **Leslie Katz** framing the issues, and workshops will be held to provide skills and information. Visit www.sfdemocrats.org events page for more information.

And, if you want to do a good thing, make it down to **Collette Le Grande**'s benefit for the Ducal Monarch Charity Fund, hosted by **Gina La Divina**. Reigning Grand Duke **Michael** and Grand Duchess **Sophiya Leggs** need your support. It happens Sunday, March 13 at 5 p.m. at Aunt Charlie's Lounge, 133 Turk Street. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, and is an avid snowboarder and bowler. His e-mail is billbarnesst@hotmail.com.

OBITUARIES

Valentino Delano Asuncion

Named for the day he was born, Valentines Day, February 14, 1950, Val communicated his love of life, deep sense of humor, and unbridled hand-someness to everyone he met. As a young man he went west, from Chicago where he grew up, to San Francisco in the heyday of liberation, where he forged a rich life generously shared with those around him. He also began traveling from that point on, amazed and humbled by different cultures. He worked for the airline since he was eighteen years old and later became involved in the union there. This career provided him both a sense of stability and mobility, since he was happiest exploring the world in order to understand his place in it. Val also took pride in his involvement in the recovery community as an adult, and was thankful for the ways it allowed him to reshape his life. In college he excelled at the intersection between art and technology and surrounded himself with creative people of every kind. Gravitating toward the beauty of the countryside, Val passed away near his home in Marin on January 13, 2005 after a spirited struggle with cancer. He was a sweet and truly vibrant person. Val is survived by his partner, Elliott Linwood of Novato, as well as his brother Rudy Asuncion and stepfather Ray Hubbard from the Chicago

area. His extended family honored Val in a private ceremony recently on the weekend of his birthday on Mt. Tamalpais.

Friends are invited to a public memorial at the LGBT Center at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco on Saturday, March 19 from 3-6 p.m., where a series of photographs that Elliott took of Val, commemorating their ten-year anniversary, will be on display for the month of March. Remembrances may be made to the Marin Humane Society where Val offered his touch and compassion as a volunteer, by calling 415-883-4621.

Markham Dale Hirt



Markham Dale Hirt, 57, died on February 28, 2005 in San Francisco, surrounded by family and friends, after a 21-year fight against HIV. He grew up in the Monterey Bay area, taught English at several community colleges and then worked as a technical writer. He was compassionate, generous, spiritual and wise. His gentle demeanor and dry wit inspired all. After retiring, he volunteered countless hours at Project Inform

AIDS hotline, Creativity Explored, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel and many other projects. He was an accomplished artist, but his true passion was toiling away afternoons in his gardens.

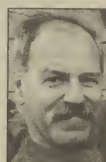
Survivors include his companion of 19 years, Joseph Schubert; mother, Kathryn Jane Hirt; sister Kathryn Anne and nephews Brett Abernathy and Kyle Jones; brother Craig, wife Kris and niece, Marissa; sister Claudia Hirt Foster and husband, Richard, and many other special aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

His life will be celebrated Saturday, March 19, 2005, at 1 p.m. at Ellard Hall, lower level of Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street. Memorials will be scheduled for family and friends in Monterey and Cazadero.

Contributions may be made to Project Inform or Creativity Explored, San Francisco, or the Food for Thought program in Forestville.

Floyd Wayne Largent

Floyd Wayne Largent passed away in San Francisco on February 26, 2005 at St. Mary's Hospital. He was born January 31, 1941 in Lufkin Texas. Wayne attended Stephen F. Austin College. His work involved window display at Sakowitz and Neiman Marcus in Houston, Texas. He then worked as a short-order cook at Hot N' Hunky in San



Francisco. Most recently, he worked at Costumes on Haight.

Wayne was a talented artist. His hobbies included painting, drawing, weaving, knitting, quilting, and gardening. He was a member of the Cheaters Motorcycle Club.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Bailey Largent and Zelma Leeper Largent, and his brother, Michael David Largent. His surviving relatives are sisters Joyce Largent Hood of Houston, and Patricia Largent Beasley of Lufkin, Texas, and brothers Thomas Largent and Harold Largent of Lufkin. He had seven nieces and four nephews. He will be greatly missed by his life partner of 31 years, Dennis Engle, and friends at the Pendulum, the Transfer and Twin Peaks.

There will be a memorial service at the Transfer on March 20, 2005 at 2 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

News in brief

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Commonwealth Club
LGBT forum

The LGBT-member led forum of the Commonwealth Club will host a talk by marriage equality activist Davina Kotulski, Ph.D. Monday, March 14 at the club's headquarters, 595 Market Street, in downtown San Francisco. There will be a reception at 5 p.m. followed by the presentation at 5:30.

Kotulski, a psychologist and author of *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage*, is active in Marriage Equality California. She is expected to discuss advances for same-sex couples in the United States and throughout the world. Through real life scenarios and vignettes, she will outline how same-sex couples are treated differently under the law and how those disparities create a second-class citizenship that has dire financial consequences and heartbreaking tragedies for gay Americans who choose to make a long-term commitment with their partners.

The event is free for Commonwealth Club members and \$15 for non-members. The upcoming program is the work of the club's LGBT member forum. For more information on that group, call John Lazar at (415) 264-8473.

Seminar on home buying

The LGBT Community Center's economic development de-

partment will host "Preparing to Purchase Property – Including Your First Home" Tuesday, March 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Instructor Monica DiPerna, MBA, will discuss credit reports and how to improve them, necessary income documentation, loan applications, and other topics geared toward those interested in purchasing a home. DiPerna has 10 years of experience in home and commercial financing as a mortgage consultant and real estate manager.

There is a \$20 recommended donation to the center for the class, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Space is limited, so interested people should contact Ken Stram at the center to reserve a spot. Stram can be reached at kens@sfcenter.org or by calling (415) 865-5515.

Castro bar bill
heads to supes

Under proposed legislation now headed to the Board of Supervisors, Castro restaurants and bars that have been offering live entertainment without the proper city permits would be given six months to come into compliance.

Last Thursday, March 3 the Planning Commission voted 5-1 to send the legislation, proposed by Supervisor Bevan Dufty at the request of the city's Entertainment Commission, to the board. Originally, the businesses would have been given one year to apply for the needed permits, but the com-

missioners voted to cut that time in half. The supervisors are expected to vote on the proposal at their March 15 meeting.

While processing a permit for Lime, the Entertainment Commission discovered that half a dozen Castro businesses did not have the proper permits to offer such things as DJs or drag shows. Instead of fining those business owners, Dufty and the Entertainment Commissioners proposed allowing them a window of opportunity to apply for the necessary permits as well as to streamline the process.

Under the proposal, any bar that was in regular operation as an entertainment use in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood commercial districts prior to January 1, 2004 could obtain a place of entertainment permit from the Entertainment Commission.

The existing bar would not have to also obtain conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission. Instead of holding public hearings at both the Entertainment and Planning commissions, there would be one hearing before the Entertainment Commission at which the public could express its views.

The exception would not apply to any business that had filed an application for a conditional use prior to introduction of the proposed legislation on December 14, 2004 or if a conditional use permit was denied within 12 months prior to the effective date of the legislation. ▼

ening our ability to raise unrestricted [non-governmental] funds."

Although Marshall has no retail background, board members say they are looking to him to provide leadership in building coalitions with their Castro business neighbors, increased community support, and more partnership with the group's ASO participants.

"Our challenges are the same as every other Castro business in this economic climate," said Marshall. "I'm looking to be good business partners with our neighbors, and further develop the Castro as a destination spot."

Marshall replaces interim executive director and former board chair Howard Thornton, who continues to assist with the transition.

According to Marshall, "Howard has been extraordinarily helpful, and will continue to assist with buying and merchandising

for an indefinite period. Under One Roof owes him a big debt of gratitude for his willingness to serve as interim executive director."

Marshall said in addition to meeting the board members, partner organizations, and volunteers, he is currently focusing on an upcoming April 19 fundraising gala, and seeking opportunities to attract more visitors to the store's online shopping site.

While board members may be enjoying a sigh of relief to have finally found a permanent executive director, Marshall is excited to begin taking part in what he calls, "the Under One Roof success story." ▼

For more information on Under One Roof's programs and partner organizations, visit www.underoneroof.org or stop by the store at 549 Castro Street in San Francisco.

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Under One Roof

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2000. The initiative, written by the late state Senator William "Pete" Knight (R-Palmdale) defined marriage in the state as between one man and one woman.

"With No on Knight I learned about defining victory. We lost on election day, but we mobilized a community effort," said Marshall. "We created leadership and promoted existing leadership that has had far-reaching effects. We also worked very hard to educate the media on the issue, so when [Mayor] Gavin Newsom [allowed gay marriages] last year, the media was much better informed."

"I also learned a great deal about fundraising, and the issues involved in building and growing an organization," said Marshall. "With Under One Roof, these lessons directly apply to strength-

Net results

by Jim Provenzano

With almost a dozen regional tournaments taking place from spring to fall, indoor volleyball leagues are proving to be among the most active groups in the GLBT athletics community.

Upcoming tournaments include the Lone Star Volleyball Association Tournament, March 25-26, in Houston, Texas; the Canadian 23rd annual Western Cup, held Easter weekend, March 24-27, in Calgary; and the Big Apple Tournament, April 9-10, in New York City.

There's plenty of fun in gay volleyball, from campy team names like the Minneapolis Stinky Kitties, Boston's Next Top Model, and the Dallas Divas, to festive parties and social events.

However, behind the humor are passionate players at all skill levels, and tenacious organizers who keep track of dozens of annual events.

How do so many league and tournament organizers manage all these activities? The National Gay Volleyball Association plays a large part in sanctioning and scheduling tournaments. To make

the process simpler, most teams rely on e-mail for communication and use Web sites for posting schedules and forms for competition registration.

But even bidding to host a NAGVA-sanctioned tournament is a daunting task. At least two years in advance, bidding leagues have to show that their host city and tournament can provide housing, hotels, adequate facilities, and a gay-friendly environment that will appeal to visiting GLBT athletes. Cities even come under scrutiny for antigay laws that may allow discrimination.

While some events are sanctioned and refereed by USA Volleyball Association officials, others work with NAGVA, which makes its own schedule. At tournaments, each team is often required to provide a trained referee for games other than its own. Clinics at tournaments serve to train new referees.

Minnesotan Gary Rother said that members of his league, the Gay Lesbian Amateur Sport Society, are mostly just looking for fun. "It's something to do on Sundays during the cold months." Based in the Twin Cities, GLASS will host the 2005 Minnesota Spring Classic, April 2-3.

Seventeen teams include many skill levels in different divisions: A, BB, and B players; former B players; and recreational level players. Rother said that his league is mostly comprised of gay men, but a few straight men and a few women also are members. Last year, four Minnesota teams made



A volleyball player from Queens, New York, foreground, against Team Milan, at Gay Games VI in Sydney.

it to the NAGVA finals.

Gotham Volleyball — with seven divisions, more than 50 teams, and more than 800 members — is the largest gay league in the country, probably in the world. How does the New York City league maintain such a large membership?

"Our membership has been increasing over the years because we are the only league in New York City to offer coaching clinics," said Gotham League Commissioner Don Murray, who has played there for nine years. "If we had the space, our league could grow even bigger. This past year we actually had to turn people away."

Gotham volleyball's home base is the Bayard Rustin High School for the Humanities in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, where seven divisions split gym time throughout each week.

Murray sees being league commissioner as "a massive undertaking [made] easy, because I've walked into a league that is nearly

25 years old. Systems in place just need fine-tuning and maintenance. What is crucial to organizing a league of this size is having a support team that is willing to get into the trenches and work. Delegation is my theme, but it only works if you can trust those [to whom] you're delegating."

Before e-mail and the Internet, Gotham's league was much smaller and its growth occurred through word of mouth, which Murray said

still plays a large part in recruitment and communication.

For smaller volleyball leagues, growth takes place because friends formed communities around the sport.

The Mid-Atlantic Alternative Volleyball Association, founded in 1985, grew out of a few Norfolk, Virginia, players who formed four teams. Since then, it's grown to eight coed teams of almost 60 players.

Dan Claud, who handles MAAVA's public relations, promotions, and Web site, joined the league seven years ago, "two years after bursting out of the closet," he said. "I've enjoyed it ever since. I have met many friends and cherish all of them."

Claud said that competition builds up to the mid-season MAAVAous tournament and the later-season finals in May. At their more social volleyball events, he added, "We play fabulous games, have a couple of campy drag numbers, and just enjoy the festivities." Their post-season banquet includes serious awards for winning teams and humorous awards for "Best Legs," "Best Breasts," and "Best Buns."

For Claud, the inspiration for working so much with his volleyball league is simple. "Many of our players meet new people each season and become long-term friends. My main goal each season is to make sure my team and I have a fabulous time, as well as enjoy the competitiveness of the sport."

Locally, volleyball is limited in its current organization. Dan Rotramel organizes South Bay games. Call (415) 826-9404 for more info. Current Bay Area volleyball organizers are welcome to send updated info to jimproven@yahoo.com. ▼

Read more columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

Links

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www.glassports.org
www.gothamvolleyball.org
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Murder

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"What is clear is that Eddie Lee did not deserve to die. With respect to other details of the case, I am hopeful that a broad and thorough investigation will quickly lead to a suspect and arrest," said D'Elia.

Cisneros said calls have been coming in and that "we are following up on them. At this point it's basic background queries we're doing. There's nothing that stands out right off the bat. But we're looking into any possible leads that could help us get a sense of the events that led to Mr. Lee's death."

Lee was a Chinese immigrant from Taiwan who reportedly was unemployed. His ex-partner David Knopf of San Francisco said Lee was a creative person who once studied graphic design at the Academy of Art College and later worked at a furniture store down-

town. Lee had a number of friends but rarely had them over to the couple's San Francisco home, said Knopf, and he gradually became a more private person through the years. During their relationship, said Knopf, Lee was not a member of any gay organizations in the city. The couple split up more than two years ago and the last time Knopf spoke to Lee was in January, he said.

Lee began wearing women's clothing to clubs toward the end of their relationship, said Knopf, and "his cross-dressing thing was not something that we shared. When he went out to clubs and did that, I wasn't with him, and I didn't know where he went... I was able to provide shockingly little help to the police."

Lee did not own a car, said Knopf, who added that he does not know whether Lee socialized in Daly City or came into San Francisco.

And while he cannot be sure, Knopf said he believes the signs

point to a hate crime motive in Lee's killing.

"Of course I don't know, because I wasn't there and I don't know what happened, but given the circumstances I assume it was a hate crime," said Knopf. "I assume he was killed because of the way he was dressed."

Anyone with information about Lee or this case should call Cisneros at (650) 991-8173 or Detective Dave Boffi at (650) 991-8170. Friends, family, and community members who need support are encouraged to call CUAV's crisis line at (415) 333-HELP; Mandarin speakers are available upon request.

"If there is something of importance please let us know so we can explore all possibilities," Cisneros said, in an appeal to the public. "We're asking the public for help. Whether you reach us right away or need to leave us a message with a call back number, your information will be kept confidential." ▼

Gay bashing

◀ page 1

tain amount of time, a warrant must be issued.

"When an incident happens, if the suspect is found within 24 hours there is no arrest warrant because the crime is still fresh," said Suhr. "But usually after the incident happens, a warrant has to be issued and go into the system. And once a person leaves the scene and makes good their escape it's not uncommon that it takes a few days to relocate that person, even if we have a registered vehicle or residence, because the suspect will realize they are known and won't go where they're expected to go."

Victims West Ray Chumley, 40, and Samson Whitaker, 34, described the March 2 attack as a gay bashing and said they had been walking from dinner to Moby Dick's when Chumley had stopped to look at something in a store window. Whitaker was crossing the street about five feet ahead of him when a car pulled up and its passengers began yelling, "Faggot," he said.

"I saw my partner turn around and say, 'You don't need to be calling people faggots,' and then another guy said, 'Get him,' and three men jumped out and ran toward him," said Chumley.

Chumley said he saw the suspects strike Whitaker in the head and face with their fists. Whitaker then entered the bar for safety but was pulled by the back of the shirt and hit in the head inside the doorway. Chumley was able to get the men off Whitaker, he said, but fell down and was kicked in the head repeatedly. The suspects reportedly fled the bar soon after the beating.

"I kind of went out for a bit," said Chumley. "When I woke up, the bartender was standing above me and went out and got the license plate number to the car."

When police arrived, said Chumley, he was sitting on the window ledge describing his account of the incident when the officer looked down and noticed the identification cards on the ground.

To make matters even stranger, said Mary Lemos, a bartender who called police during the attack, the suspects returned to the bar later on to inquire about the identification and ask if there was a fight.

"That was the scariest part, to have these guys who attacked your customers come back and start asking questions. They became

pretty agitated and were frantically looking around the floor," said Lemos.

The attack left Whitaker with some bruising in the back of his head, and Chumley sustained a bloody nose, black eye, a swollen ear, and shoe marks on the side of his face. Both men are recovering from their injuries.

"This is an affront to the gay community. We must respond swiftly and severely to let homophobes know that they will be dealt with when they venture into our community," said a statement released by Supervisor Tom Amiano after the attack.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty also was closely following the case from Israel, where he is on a study mission sponsored by a local Jewish group. Dufty called police and the *Bay Area Reporter* several times from overseas.

The suspects are described as African American males, about 5 feet 9 inches and 150 pounds, in their early 20s. Any witnesses to the attack or anyone with additional information is asked to call SFPD at (415) 553-9140.

The victims praised the police officers and bar staff for their response and said they hope that what happened to them serves as a wake-up call to the community.

"I'm from Houston. I've only been here a year and a half. I thought maybe something like this would happen to me there, but to happen in the gay mecca seems kind of odd. People think they are safe here," said Chumley. "We need to be aware of each other and look out for each other. The nicest people took care of us at the bar and that's what I would expect from a community like ours."

Whitaker, a San Francisco native, said he views Chumley as his hero for stepping in and stopping the assault against him.

"He came and put his life in danger for me," said Whitaker, who added he is still surprised by the attack.

"I've heard of gay bashing, but I never expected to go through it," he said.

Police said they expect to apprehend the remaining suspects soon.

"We were always confident we were going to get them," said Suhr. "We absolutely don't tolerate any such conduct in this city at all, and I'm sure that District Attorney Kamala Harris will prosecute this to the fullest extent as well."

DeHaven echoed that confidence.

"We're going to get them all," she said. ▼

Democrats, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts).

HRC decidedly tilts toward one poll of the political spectrum and lacks equivalent experience and access to Republicans who control Congress and the White House. Some have suggested that in hiring Solmonese, HRC has essentially given up on trying to move a political agenda at the national level for the next four years.

When pressed, Basile said, "We considered a lot of people in the search, and some of them were Republicans. We think we got the best candidate." He believes that Solmonese "is somebody with very long political roots that cross the [political] aisle."

Sherrill said, "Finding somebody who can work with Republicans is important, but in terms of our issues, there may not be someone to turn to. It may be that over the next four years all we can accomplish is to stop bad things from happening—it's stopping the barbarians at the gate." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0282403-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bark n' Bun, 1650 Holloway Ave. #6 San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Karim Salgado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282886-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-Cun Restaurant, 2288 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282887-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Can-Cun Restaurant #1, 1003 Market St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/6/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282885-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Taqueria Can-Cun #3, 3211 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Gerardo Rico. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/11/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282830-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)littleBIG Productions 2)Pervity.com, 4226 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Kristen Alice Inler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/9/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/9/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282720-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Steve Justich Interior Design, 819 14th St. #5 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steven A. Justich. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282799-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)Big Muscle Media 2)Do I Have 3)What's In My Closet 4)AB Software 5)Bigmuscle 6)Big Muscle Bears 7)Normal Gay 8)Bearsfoot, 156 Shawnee Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed William J. Sanderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/9/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282762-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1)North Beach Models 2) North Beach Model & Talent 3)Henri Afrika 4)Rocker Guitars 5)Bay Arts & Music, 1350 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282754-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Xin Li Electric, 2567 43rd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Xin Nuo Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/28/96. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/7/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282910-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Phood Consulting, 3296 22nd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Peter Hood. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/31/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282959-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ramon Campos DBA Jan-Pro, 1264 Fitzgerald Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ramon Campos-Ceja. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005**

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STATEMENT FILE A-0282934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: GPZ Electric, 434 9th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed James T. Duncan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/13/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Christian Horan Photography, 478 Duboce Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christian Horan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/16/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282951-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Claire's Gourmet House, 3641 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Jian Dong Tao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05. **FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0282920-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Holistic Solutions, 2290 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ken Estes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/14/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283324-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: KAVI Skin Solutions, Inc. 75 Casa Way, #6 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Kaveh Alizadeh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/1/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**

STATEMENT FILE A-0283375-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Idea Gems Art & Frame, 274 Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carolina Tan-Bautista. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/2/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/2/05. **MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005**



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HRC

◀ page 17

have zero clout lobbying the party that actually controls the presidency and Congress – which is fine with HRC, since it has zero interest in engaging Republicans (or, broadly speaking, red state voters) in any case. HRC is a feel-good fundraising machine for liberal Democrats, which is all it aspired to be."

Basile took umbrage at characterizing Emily's List as a liberal organization, "It's more accurate to say that they stay focused on what their issue is, and support those candidates. There are a lot of people in this country who are pro-choice and not liberal." Solmonese readily accepted characterization of the group as liberal.

The fact is, Solmonese has only worked for Democrats, and liberal ones at that. Couple it with the return of David Smith to a senior position at HRC, after a year working for the epitome of liberal

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is/are: Pauline Tanya Ristau.
The applicants listed above are applying to
the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500
San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic
beverages at: 1441 Grant Ave. San Francisco,
Ca. 94133. Type of License applied for:
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -
EATING PLACE
FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263178

The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name
known as 1)Bearsfoot 2)Normalgay.com
3)Averagegay.com at 156 Shawnee Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business
was conducted by an individual signed
William J. Sanderson. The fictitious name
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/02.
FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263147

The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name
known as 1)Big Muscle 2)Big Muscle bears
3)Big Muscle Media at 156 Shawnee Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business
was conducted by an individual signed
Andrew J. Wysocki. The fictitious name was
filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 12/20/02.
FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #240007

The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name
known as AB Software at 156 Shawnee
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business
was conducted by an individual signed
Andrew J. Wysocki. The fictitious name
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 4/12/00.
FEB. 17, 24 MAR. 3, 10 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541805

In the matter of the application of Scott
Theodor Elshans for change of name. The
application of Scott Theodor Elshans for
change of name having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Scott Theodor Elshans has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be
changed to Nicholas Theodor Elshans.
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Room 218 on the 12th
day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 17, 24, MAR. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282969-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Yvonne Frazier Consulting, 2330 48th Ave.
#1 San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business
is conducted by an individual, signed
Yvonne Frazier. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05.
FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS #305

Dear Potential Applicant: The City and
County of San Francisco Human Services
Agency (HSA) is seeking a contractor to provide
planning consultation for child welfare
redesign and related initiatives. The work
includes updating and modifying the County
System Improvement Plan and planning
around implementation of initiatives and
projects identified in the Plan.

The term for the contract will be May 1,
2005 through September 15, 2005. The Department
HSA reserves the right to renew
contracts with winning bidders selected
through this solicitation for additional years
based upon the availability of funding and
the performance of the selected contractors.
An RFQ packet may be picked up at
SDPHS, Office of Contract Management,
1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after
March 18, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30
AM to 5 PM.

The RFQ packet and subsequent updates
may be downloaded from the City's website
on or after March 18, 2005. Go to:
HTTP://SUNSET.CLSFCAUS/PBIDS.NSF
and click on the "Consultants and Professional
Services" link.

The deadline for submitting response packets
is April 4, 2005, 3:00 PM-No Exceptions

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280160

The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Gold Center & Imports located at 888
Brannan St. # 152, San Francisco Ca.
94103. This business was conducted by an
individual signed Anosh Kasparian. The
fictitious name was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/21/04
FEB. 24 MAR. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Rearden Studios, Inc. 355 Bryant St. #110
San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Stephen
G. Perlman. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/15/05.
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283170-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Covered Wagon Hotel, 800 Moscow St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Shirley
Broussard. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 2/1/83. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/23/05.
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0283085-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Merit Illustration, 665 Natoma St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Andrew
Merit. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 2/14/05. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/18/05.
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541839

In the matter of the application of Carol Anne
Nelson for change of name. The application
of Carol Anne Nelson for change of name
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Carol Anne Nelson
has filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to Carol Nelson
Ceres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Room 218 on the
26th day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541840

In the matter of the application of Brittany
Amber Brown for change of name. The
application of Brittany Amber Brown for
change of name having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Brittany Amber Brown has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be
changed to Brittany Brown Ceres. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th
day of April, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

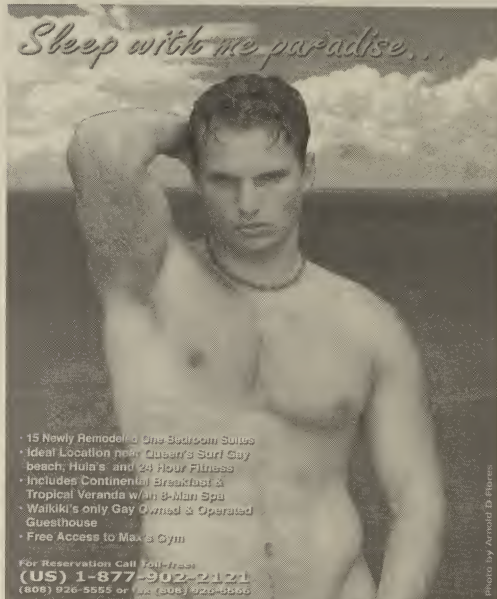
STATEMENT FILE A-0283418-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Metzler Brothers, 675 Haight St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by a general partnership, signed
Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
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MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005

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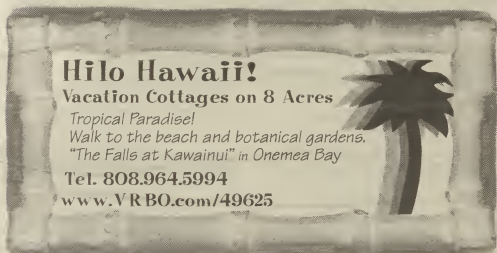
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LEGAL
NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS #297
Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco
Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking
contractors to provide emergency shelter and
support services to homeless men, women
and families. HSA currently provides funding
for emergency shelter services to this
clientele and wishes to continue funding
these services. The Department Agency ex-
pects to make multiple awards through this
procurement process.
The term for the contracts will be July 1,
2005 through June 30, 2006. The Depart-
mentHSA reserves the right to renew con-
tracts with winning bidders selected through
this solicitation for additional years based
upon the availability of funding and the per-
formance of the selected contractors.
An RFQ packet may be picked up at
SFHHS, Office of Contract Management,
1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, February
28, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to
5 PM.
The RFQ packet and subsequent updates
may be downloaded from the City's website
on or after February 28, 2005. Go to:
[HTTP://HSA.SF.CA.US/RFQ/PBIDS.NSF](http://HSA.SF.CA.US/RFQ/PBIDS.NSF)
and click on the "Consultants and Profes-
sional Services" link.
The deadline for submitting response packets
is March 24, 2005, 3:00 PM. No Exceptions

STATEMENT FILE A-0283434-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Burke Ventures, 226 Grand View Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Thomas
R. Burke. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and County
of San Francisco, Ca. on 3/3/05.
MAR. 10, 17, 24, 31 2005

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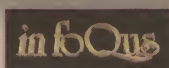
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Creatures from the Boob Lagoon
'The Lavender Tube' checks in on 'Stars without Makeup,' the Jackson trial, more.
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Sincerely Sachet
Out 'On the Town' with the famous Donna Sachet.
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Playing pure evil
Actor Bruno Ganz on filming 'Downfall.'
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 10 • 10 March 2005

Director Serge Denoncourt brings a new bloom to 'Lilies' on stage

French schoolboys in dangerous love

by Richard Dodds

When a nervous young actor asked director Serge Denoncourt if the nudity in *Lilies* is absolutely essential, he didn't get much sympathy. "I said, 'You read the play. It is the play. I don't want to talk about that anymore.'"

Well, Denoncourt did have one more thing to say: "Do you take a bath with your clothes on?"

The Montreal director, making his US debut with ACT's production of *Lilies*, was referring to a scene in which two teenage schoolboys in rural 1912 Quebec consummate their love in a bathtub. Denoncourt has put his own stamp on the scene, moving it beyond the more demure manner of the original 1985 production of Michel Marc Bouchard's play and the 1996 film version.

"If you think it's just kissing his nose, you're totally wrong," the 42-year-old director said. "It's more sexual than in all the other productions. We all say, 'I'm OK with homosexuality. I love *Will & Grace*.' But you never see Will kissing a man. It's like the gay friend everybody wants to have, and you never see him kissing or making love. I have a problem with that."

The production is an unusual collaboration between ACT's MFA program and Theatre Rhino, and the cast is a combination of professional and grad-student actors. Opening March

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Two French-Canadian teens consummate their love in a bathtub in the film version of *Lilies*.

2005 San Francisco International Asian-American Film Festival



Boys test the sincerity of first love in Quentin Lee's *Ethan Mao*.

East meets West

by David Lamble

This year NAATA, big brother to the Asian American Film Festival, marks its 25th anniversary by honoring the nearly three-decade career of San Francisco-raised Steven Okazaki. Starting with *A-m-e-r-i-c-a-n-s*, a kid's film about racism in 1976, Okazaki has produced a wildly eclectic body of fact and fiction films. His back pages, including the 1987 nerd-orama *Living on Tokyo Time* and an Oscar-winning short film, will be on full display along with a spanking new documentary feature, *The Mushroom People*, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Guest programmers (including indie hit *Better Luck Tomorrow* director Justin Lin) will showcase some of the festival's tastiest chestnuts. Not to be missed at the Castro: the rare screening of the New Wave treasure *Hiroshima Mon Amour*.

The festival's film venues include the

Castro, AMC's Kabuki 8 Theatres, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley and the Camera 12 Cinemas in San Jose. Special events will unfold at the Asian Art Museum, with the *Directions in Sound: Notes from the Asian Underground* music programs taking place at the Cafe Du Nord (3/11) and at Studio Z (3/12).

Ethan Mao "I suggest all of you turn in your cell phones." A Chinese American teenager turned street hustler takes his very wacky family hostage and to the brink of nuclear meltdown in Quentin Lee's sexy comedy of pretty boys testing the sincerity of first love while bedeviled by a hobgoblin fun-house of second marriages, angry dads, bullying half-brothers and very wicked stepmothers. The Hong Kong-raised, Canadian-financed and American-situated Lee enjoys wrapping his meditations on the urgency and fecklessness of young-boy love in time-warp puzzles that leave you wondering whether you're watching the characters' lives or a

page 42 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

An offer that Out There can't refuse

These are boom times for gay scribes & 'celebrity' reporters

by Roberto Friedman

This week, Out There gives a big shout-out to our queer brothers and sisters in the **National Gay Newspaper Guild**, who are having their annual hootenanny, erm we mean "business meeting" this weekend, down in party-town central, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Say gang, hasn't it been such an exciting year so far to be a gay journalist? If only OT had followed the clever career path of White House correspondent "Jeff Gannon," we could have our own porno website and keep our high-profile section-editor position. Why choose when you can have it all?

And if you're an allegedly gay journalist and you're CNN anchor **Anderson Cooper**, you get to have it both ways: you're outed by scribe **Michael Musto** in *Out* magazine, and you go to a reception for the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association in NYC, but you still won't come out on the public record. Boo-hoo, Coop!

Yoo-hoo to *FishbowlDC* blogger **Garrett Graff**, who's been trying for weeks to get a daily pass to the press briefing in the White House, since it seemed to be so easy for Our Man "Gannon." All that hard work has finally paid off, as political blog *Wonkette* reported last week, adding, as a way to set his mind at ease, that Graff shouldn't worry. "Whatever they say, [White House press secretary] **Scott (McClelland)** does not expect you to do the first briefing in your panties."

But now that mob heiress/reality-show star **Victoria Gotti** has reportedly been bounced from her latest gig as a tabloid reporter for the *Star*, we're hoping she may want to sign on as editorial slave, erm we mean "intern" with the *Bay Area Reporter*. The advantages of having an assistant named Gotti on staff make our heads

swim. Imagine horse's heads showing up in press agents' beds! Offers that writers and photographers definitely can't refuse! A sit-down with publicists and our cousins from Jersey! We could finally mumble to our heart's content, and everyone would just chalk it up to our bad **Brando** impersonation. Victoria, we want your name on our masthead, ASAP.

Meantime, we wonder how the new male gorilla **Oscar** is getting on over in the primate habitat of the SF Zoo. You may remember a feature in the *SF Chronicle* a few weeks back about the new guy, and how frustrated all the female gorillas in the compound are because he simply won't present to them for sex. He's just not that into them.

The *Chron* piece ended poignantly and, we think, meaningfully. "Meanwhile, there was finally something arousing Oscar's interest. He climbed up on a large rock, assumed a commanding stance, and started making noises."

"He was checking out some spectators, and they were staring back."

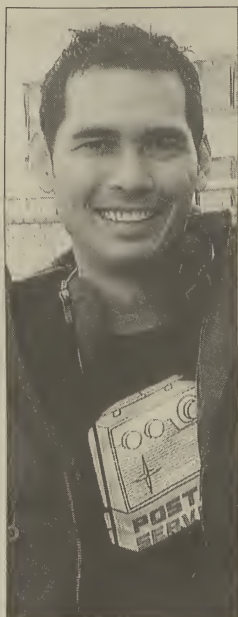
"[Zookeeper] **Kerr** wasn't surprised at Oscar's turnabout."

"He's very interested in human males," she said."

OT has another zoo in mind for Oscar, one called the Castro. Hey, with the build and the hair, he's probably just some queen's type.

Let them eat cock?

Seems some people will risk all for their art — and incidentally, to sell a few tickets. Studly film director **Q. Allan Brocka** has agreed to participate in the appropriately titled *Eating Out* contest, which takes place on the movie's opening night, March 18, during the 7 p.m. screening at the Castro Theatre. Lucky contestants can

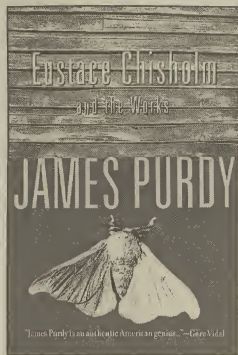


Win a date with Q. Allan Brocka.

enter a raffle, win, and eat out with Brocka directly after the show. Sources say all questions are on the table. You can ask him about his famous uncle, legendary Filipino filmmaker **Lino Brocka**. You can ask him how exactly he motivates his actors, or you can ask him how big his dick is. What's on the menu? Sausages! (You have to see the movie to get that joke, sorry.) Dessert? Deep-dish pie, or maybe some sticky buns. If you're the lucky eater, be sure to let us know what went down the hatch.

With the works

Lucky for us and our voracious reading habits, an early work from one of our all-time favorite novelists, **Eustace Chisholm** and the *Works* by **James Purdy**, was recently reissued in paperback (Carroll & Graf). Originally published



in 1967, Purdy recalls that the book "especially outraged the anesthetist, hypocritical, preppy and stagnant New York literary establishment, especially that part of the book which sympathetically narrates the passionate love between two young men. The thinking of the time was that such love, unless treated clinically or as a documentary, could not be tolerated."

"Ace" Chisholm is a bisexual poet, the psychic eye of the storm of these characters' tragic lives in Depression-era Chicago. The book's beauty, Amos "Rat" Ratcliffe, Ace says, is such that "all I could do when I got to his room was sit in a cramped position on the floor and look at him. He likes to be looked at, so it pleased both of us."

Purdy is a poetic genius of gay literature who is ripe for rediscovery by a new generation of readers who think that gay fiction comes only in the form of conventional realism or confessional memoir. His *Malcolm* may be the first gay coming-of-age novel.

"There used to be two and only two things a newspaper was good for — garbage and cat shit," observes Ace, "but times have got so bad for writers that I can't even afford yellow scratch-paper. Now I have to use the *Tribune* to write my poems on in charcoal."

Split ends

There have been lots of recent changes over at the nonprofit Women's Educational Media. Oscar-winning producer/director **Deborah Chasnoff** and her long-time business partner, producer/director **Helen Cohen**, have gone their separate ways. Apparently the dissolution of the partnership was not all hearts and flowers. And as soon as Cohen walked out the door, a large percentage of Women's Educational Media employees also voted with their feet.

Russian roulette

The [UK] *Guardian* has been reporting on the recent scandal at the Bolshoi Theatre when pro-Kremlin MPs ordered an investigation into an opera they claim is "vulgar and pornographic." *Rosenthal's Children*, which features a godlike figure who creates clones of famous composers, was to open later this month.

The libretto was written by **Vladimir Sorokin**, a controversial postmodernist author whose novel *Blue Lard* caused outrage in Russia with scenes of homosexual liaisons between the Soviet leaders **Stalin** and **Khrushchev**. The author was prosecuted on pornography charges in 2002 for *Blue Lard*, but the trial collapsed for lack of evidence.

Sergei Neverov, the MP who proposed the investigation, admitted he had not read the script of *Rosenthal's Children*, but claimed it would bring the Bolshoi into disrepute. "We should prevent the staging of Mr. Sorokin's vulgar plays in the theatre which is a symbol of Russian culture," he told Russia's Parliament. "Otherwise, this pornography will be discussed all over the country."

But Bolshoi general director **Anatoly Iksanov** was having none of that, saying the inquiry smacked of the restrictions imposed on writers like **Boris Pasternak** in the '30s. Out There is also reminded of federal "decency standards" imposed on US networks after the *Janet Jackson* just last year. Whoa, synchronicity.

Out for dance

The lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community is cordially invited to a "Nite Out at **San Francisco Ballet**" on Friday, April 8. The program includes **Jerome Robbins' Dybbuk**, **Val Caniparoli's Lambarena** and **Sir Frederick Ashton's Symphonic Variations**.

Your \$50 ticket includes: orchestra seating at the performance, 8 p.m. at the War Memorial Opera House; and a cocktail reception from 10:30 p.m. to Midnight at the Dress Circle Bar. Complimentary wine by La Crema, cocktails featuring Blue Ice Vodka, and decadent desserts are promised.

A collaboration between Robbins and **Leonard Bernstein**, *Dybbuk* is described as "the dramatic portrayal of a young man whose body is taken over by a spirit from beyond." Hey, Out There has had that very experience. Info/tickets at www.sfballet.org. ▼

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The Bolshoi Theatre is the site of an international censorship scandal.

DVD

'She loves too much' without convention

Ravishing 'Leave Her to Heaven' stars Gene Tierney as bad, bad woman

by Matthew Kennedy

Fox, in the steady, low-volume releasing of its film library, has seen fit to give us the 1945 box-office smash *Leave Her to Heaven*. The DVD offers a few extras of fleeting interest, including a newsreel of *Heaven* at the Academy Awards, as well as a demonstration of before-and-after restoration footage, but the movie's the thing. Made during the twilight of the studio era, *Leave Her to Heaven* is a hothouse creation of the ripest, richest kind.

Leave Her to Heaven concerns itself with a father-fixated woman prone to brutal jealousy, but little here follows convention. The film succeeds as a mockery of expectations in storytelling. Gene Tierney plays a bad, bad woman, the very picture of pampered, useless, upper-class womanhood, but her desires are entirely reasonable. All she wants is a little privacy with her husband. Her downfall is confusing possession for love, and for taking extreme measures. That's the usual domain of men in melodrama, their jealousy being the catalyst for countless acts of violence. Embolden that impulse in Gene Tierney, and something altogether novel happens. She becomes the wedge between two brothers, not because they both love her, but because they love

each other.

Leave Her to Heaven is bookended by an expository beginning that leads to a classic flashback, with a hasty resolution that smells of Production Code impositions. Interest picks up in-between when Vincent Price enters the picture. Tierney has already made a bee-line for Cornel Wilde, with Price as her jilted fiancé. But the specter of a dull romantic triangle is subverted not once but twice, when lovely Jeanne Crain shows interest in Wilde. Both plotlines take a back seat to the love of Wilde for his polio-stricken younger brother, played by Darryl Hickman. He is the catalyst who sends this tale into wholly original territory.

The success of *Leave Her to Heaven* belongs foremost to Tierney. She was much more than Hollywood's most beautiful overbite. She had the preternatural ability to be alluring and icy at the same time; she could change emotional colors with magnificent yet subtle clarity. Wasn't she sweet and warm a moment ago? Maybe, but now she's ready to kill. She was at the top of her game in *Leave Her to Heaven*, and alongside *Laura*, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*, *Heaven Can Wait* and *The Razor's Edge*, she amassed a list of credits to stack against any others of the late '40s.

Cornel Wilde contributes a solid, well-dressed, handsome,



leading-man performance. Like Tierney, his good looks, highlighted by a pair of deep, dark brown eyes, took notice away from very real acting chops. In '45, neither he nor Tierney could be denied. She was Oscar-nominated for *Leave Her to Heaven*, while he was nominated for his sickly Chopin in *A Song to Remember*. Darryl Hickman plays younger brother Danny to perfection. He's the kind of earnest, unaware boy everyone loves less than anyone wants to admit. Together with his able cast, director John M. Stahl creates economical, sustained tension in key scenes, allowing us various understated discoveries. Stahl's technique is so discreet you may well ask yourself how he made your heart leap or your stomach turn.

Right honor

Leave Her to Heaven was a huge smash at the box-office, nearly topping the charts for 1945. Each of its Oscar nominations, including sound and art direction, were more than justified. Alfred Newman's score, dominated by thumping kettle-drums, was equally deserving of mention. Its sole win, for Leon Shamroy's orgasmic color cinematography, is one of those just-right choices that too infrequently appear on the Academy honor roll.

The movie's reputation has grown. The elegant, contained work of Stahl and Tierney ages well, and avoids the camp fate of another color experiment of the era, King Vidor's weird, nympho Western *Duel in the Sun*. *Heaven* shares a closer kinship to Michael Powell's British-made *Black Narcissus* of '47, where color similarly acts as a breathing character amidst turgid, denied emotions of lust, covetousness, dislocation, and death. If it sparks a memory of Douglas Sirk's lush dramas, there's a reason. Stahl directed *Imitation of Life* and *Magnificent Obsession* in the '30s. Sirk remade both in the '50s.

To its credit, *Heaven* is an object lesson in the pitfalls of genre assignments. What exactly is it? If it's a love story, then it's at least as twisted as *Laura*, in which Dana Andrews falls in love with Tierney's portrait. Calling it film noir, as has occurred, is more problematic. The central character is a woman, not a private dick and public chump in the form of John Garfield, Richard Widmark, or Robert Ryan. There's nary a gun in sight. And if classic noir is defined by its visuals as much as its character types, then *Heaven* must be catalogued elsewhere. It was shot in saturated, glorious Technicolor, with awful deeds committed in the countryside under the bright sun. Noir's Midnight back-alley are nowhere in sight. So perhaps Foucault was right: labels don't clarify, they mystify. At least when they are used to limit our understanding of genuinely original works of art. ▼

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Return of a romp

Witty 'Dinner at Eight' from the '30s

by Matthew Kennedy

VD output has to date offered but a soupçon of 1930s classics. Where are *Gold Diggers* of 1933, *Top Hat*, *Cavalcade*, *Bombshell*, *Footlight Parade*, *The Old Maid*, *These Three*, *King Kong*, *The Good Earth*, *Ruggles of Red Gap*, and *Ninotchka*? We can scratch *Dinner at Eight* off that list: Warners Video has at last released it. And, to be fair, there has been a drip drip of releases lately, from *Liberated Lady* in March to *I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang* slated for May.

Dinner at Eight is a particularly welcome addition, for it represents the second effort by MGM to manufacture an all-star ensemble piece worthy of itself. The studio succeeded beyond precedence with the first all-star talkie, *Grand Hotel* in '32, and the fact that *Dinner at Eight* surpasses its genre predecessor in wit and entertainment value is no small accomplishment. Imagine the vicarious pleasure in '33 of first watching white satin wave across Jean Harlow's breasts. Imagine the indoor sport of mocking the rich with smart, satiric dialogue as the Depression poor sacrificed a quarter for two hours in the dark. *Dinner at Eight* unmasks the Park Avenue social registry to offer all that and a great deal more. It arrived at the darkest of moments, and was shot entirely during the special session of Congress that gave birth to the New Deal.

Beyond our memory is the way the classic studios kept and maintained talent like exotic fish. First-



time producer David O. Selznick issued a royal edict telling, not asking, top personnel at MGM to get to work. Just like that, schedules were made, longterm contracts were honored, and no less than Marie Dressler, Wallace Beery, Harlow, Billie Burke, and two Barrymores reported for duty, supported ably by pretty young things Madge Evans and Phillips Holmes and several finely etched, lower-ranking players such as Lee Tracy, Karen Morley, Elizabeth Patterson (*I Love Lucy*'s Mrs. Trumbull), May Robson, Edmund Lowe, and Jean Hersholt. Fabled names like Adrian, Cedric Gibbons, and Frances Marion did the costumes, sets, and screenplay adaptation from the stage original. Promising newcomer George Cukor was signed to direct. *Dinner* was given the best that MGM had, which in '33 was the best anyone had.

This is a comedy of complexity, where each of the main characters has multiple points of inter-

section. Lionel Barrymore is Evans' father and Burke's husband and Lowe's patient and Patterson's employer and Dressler's flame of yesteryear and Beery's would-be dupe. *Dinner* has a touch of Molière and Sheridan to it, where audiences are rewarded for paying close attention, and dignity is routinely punctured for laughs. It can also claim ancestry to those later screenplays that take wicked glee in labyrinthine deceit and secrecy, from *Shampoo* to *Gosford Park*.

Ham on a plate

Based on a '32 Broadway hit by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber, *Dinner at Eight* was then, now, and forever a tribute to the joys of overacting with the right script and the right performers. Cukor's reputation as a great "woman's director" was born here. Thunderous Marie Dressler lurches through the movie under a heavy load of make-up, jewelry, pelts, and wounded pride. It's a stretch to believe that she was once a celebrated beauty of the Lillian Russell-Anna Held type, but part of the joke is her self-delusion, fed adoringly by Lionel Barrymore. Her Carlotta Vance is the grandest of grand dames, broadly rendered, and a loving elegy to a career devoted to laughter. It is Dressler who delivers that immortal line to Harlow in response to books, machines, and professions, and in doing so pays tribute to working women everywhere. Chirping Billie Burke is the exacting hostess at the center of dinner plans, anal long before the word was accepted in mixed com-

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Bang-on-a-key Antony

Art-band Antony and the Johnsons at the Great American Music Hall

by Mark Mardon

Antony and the Johnsons blew through San Francisco last Friday night, dropping a big gay art bomb — the explosive, colorful kind, not the dull, deadly kind — at the Great American Music Hall, splattering the place with falsetto, droll humor and oddly rendered romantic melodies.

Fans got to hear new material and beloved older songs from Antony and The Johnsons' debut namesake album, such as "Cripple and the Starfish." In a childlike

way, the lyric gets right to the heart of Antony's motivation in love: "Mr. Muscle forcing bursting/Stingy thingy into little me/But just 'ripple' said the cripple/As my jaw dropped to the ground/Smile smile./It's true I always wanted love to be/Hurtful!"

The material comes from deep within the relentlessly pierced heart of the divine Antony, a proudly gender-bent being, either a big, nelly man in drag, or a woman's spirit gratefully liberated from a man's body, but always fascinating in her hurt, heart-warming, occasionally cutting way.

Antony is as gay as his beloved

Sausage Lake, a possibly mythical place "an hour and a half north of San Jose," where he often went to play during his high school days. The lake was shallow and so warm you could cook a wiener, he said, and was always full of gay men who would dangle their hotdogs into the water before putting them on buns.

The mixed straight/gay crowd adored this story and the entire show, but puzzled mightily when Antony engaged in his little experimental bits, such as banging repeatedly on one key on the piano, his left hand tapping it out fast and rhythmically but endlessly, about as pleasant to hear as a car alarm. It's as if Antony knew that repetitive stress was exactly what people would remember after leaving the auditorium — and he delighted in giving them the aural equivalent of a spanking!

Looking a bit like a rag doll in his mop of hair as he sat heavily at the piano, Antony rendered his uniquely beautiful art songs with casual aplomb, sometimes pounding the piano dramatically, mostly tickling the keys delicately, rendering songs about growing up, gender confusion, spirals, and hope. Sometimes his voice had a snotty kid's poutiness, but then he was so cute you wanted to reach out and pinch the big, mop-haired guy's dimples.

Most of the night's songs, including the hit "For Today I Am a



Antony rendered his uniquely beautiful art songs with casual aplomb.

Boy," came from the band's new album *I Am a Bird Now*, but the concert harkened back to the band's debut album in its stripped-down orchestration, with Antony on piano, Julia Kent on cello, and Maxim Moston on violin and guitar. On some songs, the CocoRosie siblings, Bianca

and Sierra Casady, contributed otherworldly vocals, which was a nice touch, strange and lovely as they are in their wicked, over-artsy way. Together they had the house going wild, with the audience repeatedly interacting/sparring with the artist, to the joy (and occasional irritation) of all. ▼

Jam-packed programs

SF Symphony puts out for concerts

by Philip Campbell

San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas returned from hiatus last week for a brief stay at Davies Hall. He will remain in town to conduct the current run of concerts featuring Mahler's nocturnal Symphony No. 7 (part of the complete cycle's recording project). Then he's off again until mid-May.

Before anyone starts comparing him to the late Johnny Carson, however, with his penchant for utilizing guest hosts, remember: MTT is one of the hardest-working acts in show business. He never holds back in performance, and he will hardly be idle during his time away from the podium.

Most recently, he jam-packed the program with a dizzying array of virtuoso scores that have been performed here before. The major new addition was the appearance of Vladimir Feltsman as soloist in the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1.

I usually come away from a Feltsman interpretation impressed by his dazzling ability and disappointed by his lack of nuance. This occasion was no exception, but at least he was immersed in suitable repertory.

Feltsman's forays into Bach are resolutely hard-edged and oblivious to historic authenticity. Tchaikovsky can take and actually demands a certain degree of rawboned pounding.

From the first statement of the memorable opening theme to the breathtaking finale, the soloist



Feltsman was hell-bent-for-leather.

maintained a hell-bent-for-leather approach that couldn't help but thrill the listener. Unfortunately, the gorgeous chamber-textured middle movement was hardly given a chance to breathe. Cellist Michael Grebanier had just the right amount of romantic nostalgia. Feltsman seemed to be playing his part of the duet as a solo.

There was a moment of telling and frankly charming egotism during the closing pages as well. The pianist looked straight at the audience with a huge boyish grin. He seemed to be saying, here's the topper, and you're going to love it. He was right, of course. It wasn't a pretty rendition, but it was one hell of a ride.

The concert opened with Aaron Copland's *Orchestral Variations*, the thoroughly satisfying re-setting of his seminal *Piano Variations*. Once again, we could

marvel at the quintessential American composer's influence on serious music in the 20th century. Leonard Bernstein couldn't have written *West Side Story* without him.

This is MTT territory, and he powered the orchestra through an electrifying performance. One of the most tough-ridden audiences in recent memory proved distracting, but nothing could break the momentum.

The evening closed with the enigmatic Shostakovich Symphony No. 15. It would have been nice if more members of the bronchially challenged crowd had attended the delightfully informative pre-concert "Inside Music" talk by Peter Grunberg. There might have been fewer nervous gags, rumbles and hacks during the stunningly intense quiet moments.

The big fortissimo climaxes were exciting, and the many clever orchestral gimmicks worked their magic dreamily. The ultimate effect was both disturbing and moving. MTT's interpretation has not changed much. I am truly hoping this signals the possibility of a future recording venture. Shostakovich is a composer who obviously speaks to our maestro, and he gives fresh insight to his genius.

Bartok talk

The previous week of programming was almost eclipsed by Tilson Thomas and the sheer force of the Shostakovich and Feltsman's Tchaikovsky. Still, it must be reported that another pi-

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Father-daughter business

'A Reckoning' debuts at the Magic Theatre

by Richard Dodds

The urge to procreate goes deep, but you'd think that the amount of pain that parents and their children visit upon each other would put the brakes on that. But each new generation thinks it has learned how not to do things, only to find it creates a new set of resentments to be worked out upon the coming generation. The buttons may change, but they will always be pushed.

Wesley Moore's *A Reckoning*, making its American debut at the Magic, readily acknowledges this unkillable phenomenon — to a degree most of us never encounter — but it also reaffirms the bonds that can ultimately supercede the pain.

Real-life father and daughter

Kevin Tighe and Jennifer Tighe are the play's warring father and daughter, who wind up arguing Spencer's parenting skills in court. The chronically unhappy Irene has been recalling some disturbing memories in therapy, and when the stricken Spencer refuses to consider that he may not have been a decent father, Irene sues to get his attention.

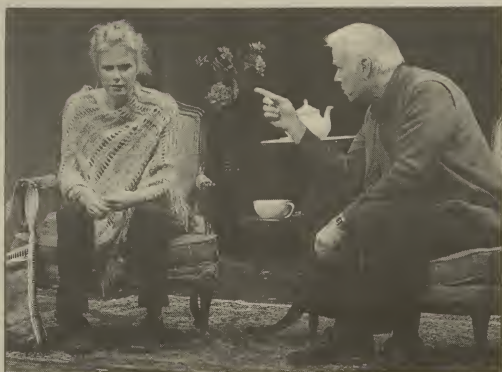
The 85-minute production is played out in a series of father-daughter scenes that build in tension through most of the play before becoming repetitious, at least until a hint of healing finds its way into the final scene. Richard Seyd's direction is tidy if a bit static.

Seyd also directed the play in London, where Jonathan Pryce played the father. It's easy to imagine a tighter and pricklier performance than the avuncular

Tighe provides. A little unsure of his lines on opening night, he still gets across the heart of the play, as does Jennifer Tighe despite a certain monotony in her delivery.

Moore has made his home in the Bay Area for 16 years, and his plays have been produced in New York and Los Angeles in addition to London, but this marks the first time a local theater has staged one of his works. *A Reckoning* is not without its lapses, but this belated debut is still a welcome and thought-provoking look at a universal condition known as family. ▼

A Reckoning will run at the Magic Theatre through March 27. Tickets are \$20-\$38. Call 441-8822 or go to magictheatre.org.



Jennifer Tighe as Irene, and Kevin Tighe as Spencer in *A Reckoning*.

A composer who 'got' women

Handel is hot in new arias and duets sets

by Tim Pfaff

Until we have a better Wayback Machine, we'll never know for sure if Handel was gay. One of the principal arguments scholars have advanced in favor of the hypothesis is the 18th-century composer's uncanny ability to, you should pardon the expression, get inside his female characters. While it's the softest of the arguments in support of his homosexuality, there's no denying that Handel was uncommonly perceptive about the female psyche, created a host of indelibly drawn women characters, and clearly both adored and knew how to deal with the divas of his day.

The best of today's Handel experts are comfortably "out" — and share the composer's simpatie with singers, particularly women. For the latest evidence, look no farther than *Opera Seria* (Naive), soprano Sandrine Piau's collection of Handel arias under the direction of Christophe Rousset and his superb Les Talens Lyriques; and *Amor e gelosia* (Virgin), a collection of Handel opera duets by Patrizia Ciofi and Joyce Di Donato led by Alan Curtis and his Il Complesso Barocco.

It almost needs saying that Piau does not sing "Ombra mai fu," though if you need to hear it yet again, it does appear, sung by Anne Sofie von Otter, in William Christie's new, complete recording of *Serse* for Virgin, the best of the recent crop of complete Handel opera recordings (in which Piau sings Atalanta). In fact, Piau got her start in Baroque repertoire with Christie, but it was when she joined Rousset's ensemble in 1994 that she fully came into her own as a Baroque specialist. This new CD is both a look back at their long, fruitful collaboration and a plunge into some Handel repertoire that is still hardly well-known and, on this evidence, deeply worth knowing.

The fare, mostly from still-seldom-performed operas, is designed to showcase the fecundity of Handel's artistic imagination.



The numbers alternate between introspective, pathos-laden arias and more florid, extroverted pieces, which merely give pointed expression to different feelings. They all lead up to the crowning and longest of the pieces, the remarkable "Son qual stanco pellegrino" from *Arianna in Creta*, one of Handel's pasticcio operas. (It has received a complete staged performance since this CD was made. Will wonders never cease in the world of Handel opera?)

Piau is at her best in the more inward, psychologically tortured pieces, giving the most familiar of them, Cleopatra's famous "Se pietà" from *Giulio Cesare*, an individual and highly involving performance. Melissa's heart-stopping lament from *Amadigi*, the dirge "Ombra, piante" from the suddenly ubiquitous *Rodelinda* (a phenomenon no Handelians would have anticipated even five years ago); and transfixing accounts of Asteria's "Cor di padre" from *Tamerlano* and "M'ai resa infelice" from *Deidamia*, Handel's final opera, which mixes lament and invective in a dizzying brew, are compelling.

Still, the coup is the *Arianna* set-piece, a prime example of the kind of sublime music Handel could throw together on short notice. In a mesmerizing 10 minutes, Piau's Alcete carries on a duet with solo cello in which time seems to stop as peaks of emotion are patiently scaled. As everywhere else on the CD, Rousset and his band are as insightful as his soloist.

Although the years have robbed Piau's instrument of some of its bloom and perfume, the tone occasionally dries up or

frays, and the effort of executing the runs is now audible (although they're never aspirated), no matter. The maturity and keen intelligence she brings to every phrase of this music makes the CD a must-have for Handel fanciers.



Inspired duets

A CD of Handel duets was in itself an inspired idea, and *Amor e gelosia* has become something of a cult favorite for Handel lovers. It, too, has shown the courage to omit the most famous (and among the most beautiful) of duets in all of Handel, from the end of Act I of *Giulio Cesare*. Like the Rousset-Piau disc, it shows how much else is there, in operas whose modern day is yet to come. Curtis, the Papageno of Baroque canary-catchers, has hit it rich with soprano Ciofi and mezzo Di Donato, fresh-sounding singers who achieve an ideal blend. Each voice is distinctively, immediately identifiable, while an ideal complement for the other.

The program has been made as intelligently as Rousset's and Piau's. The 17 selections, also mostly from lesser-known operas, follow an overall pattern from the blush of first love to jealousy and other snags in mankind's amatory adventure through blissful reconciliation. The three selections from *Poro* (1731) alone show the pattern in miniature.

The scheme adds to the intrinsic interest of this CD, which brims with character from both singers and players throughout. But given the material and the participants, it wasn't likely to become boring in any case. ▼

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Lilies on stage

◀ Arts cover

11 at the Zeum Theater, this is only the second US production of *Lilies*, despite its success in both Canada and Europe, first in French and then in Linda Gaboriau's English translation. (It is being staged in repertory with Steve Gooch's *Female Transport*, a play about six female prisoners on a journey from England to Australia.)

The original 1985 Montreal production of *Les feluettes* was so hugely successful that Denoncourt balked for two years when the playwright urged him to direct a new production. "Finally I saw something new I could do with the play," he said. "It's probably less romantic than the original production of 20 years ago. And it's more violent. It's more about surviving a love story than just being in love."

The play is set in a Quebec prison in 1952 where a bishop arrives thinking he is there to hear the final confession of Simon, a boyhood friend convicted of murder 40 years before. But in fact, he is trapped into watching a reenactment of the events leading up to the apparent murder, including his own early homosexual feelings for Simon and his destructive jeal-



The original 1985 production of Michel Marc Bouchard's play *Lilies* preceded the 1996 film version, seen here.

ousy at Simon's interest in another boy. In the play within the play, male prisoners play all the characters, both male and female, as the increasingly agitated bishop is

forced to confront his own complicity in the tragedy that evolves.

"A lot of people don't like the movie," Denoncourt said. "I'm one of those. It doesn't talk about what I think the play is talking about. It's more like a tribute to men playing women. It's a little bit too cute for me."

For Denoncourt, whose 2002 revival production in Montreal was an enormous success, the play is about intolerance in whatever form it takes. "Yes, it's two gay guys. Yes, it's about a gay relationship. But I think it's a play about America — Canada and the US — and the fact the people are scared about what they don't know."

Next generation

Both the playwright and the director wanted a new generation to have a chance to see the play. "Twenty years ago, a lot of gay guys came to see the show. But with this last production, it was moms and dads and gay guys, all kinds of people crying and laughing. We don't think *Lilies* is a gay play anymore. We just think it's a good play."

But the playwright is, in fact, gay, and Denoncourt acknowledged, "I'm probably better to direct this play because I am gay, too, and I know what's being talked about even if my hometown was not like in the play."

Denoncourt grew up in a small town about 100 miles from Mon-

tréal. "It was a normal family," he said, "but I was the different one. At 14, I said to everyone, 'I'm gay.' I don't know if I was so sure then, but it was like a bit of drama. My mother cried a little bit, just because she likes drama, like me. But deep down, it was not a problem."

He first set out to be an actor. "I was successful, but I was sad, and I knew that I wanted to be a director, so I founded my own company at 22 years old. The first show was a big success, and I became like that" — he snapped his



Director Serge Denoncourt in SF.

fingers — "a director." Twenty years later, Denoncourt's Theatre de l'Opis is still in operation.

Denoncourt has arrived in San Francisco as a single man for the first time in his adult life. "I think I'm happy," he said. "It's important to be alone to see how you deal with yourself, but it won't be for long, because I'm really a guy who loves to be in love. It's like a sickness."

But it is a "sickness" he puts to professional use. "I love drama. I love crying. It's a turn-on. It's also a fuel for my work. I'm a thief. I use it. I say of all directors, we are directing our sickness. We try to understand our sickness directing other people." ▼

Lilies will run at the Zeum Theater through April 2. Tickets are \$25. Call 724-2228 or go to act-sf.org.



Male prisoners play all the characters, male and female, in *Lilies*.

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Dinner at Eight

◀ page 31

pany. She believes civilization will perish without the perfect aspic for Lord and Lady Ferncliffe, and who are we to disagree? When Jean Harlow tries on hats, receives her lover, or sass-talks Wallace Beery, she becomes film's great comic trollop. She holds court from her bed like a spoiled Persian cat, a disagreeable chocolate substituting for a furball. The only thing that excites this former hat-check girl from the Hottentot Club is social climbing, which she does with unflinching ineptitude.

Many of Cukor's most revered movies have a problem or two in them that often go unmentioned, perhaps because that would spoil the fun. Those Norma Shearer domestic scenes in *The Women* have a regrettable, saccharine goo to them. *Born Yesterday* deflates when Billie gets wise. The sexual politics of *The Philadelphia Story* and *My Fair Lady* don't age well. In *Dinner at Eight*, it's the strain

toward drama that doesn't pay off. *Dinner* offers economic ruin, ill health, and suicide amidst the champagne-spritzed repartee, but the drama stands apart because it is not of the equivalent excellence of the movie's social comedy. John Barrymore's skilled performance as a sodden, bombastic ham actor on the skids has a too-close-to-home queasiness to it, and his clandestine love affair is uninviting. Brother Lionel is so upstaged by a flotilla of strong women that his performance, and the acute crises that accompany his character, are summarily eclipsed.

It doesn't diminish the joy of watching the film to suggest that its many parts don't always mesh. It is ultimately a triumph of type-casting the *crème de la crème*: Dressler as an overripe actress of the mauve decade, Billie Burke as a flighty society matron, John Barrymore as a faded matinee idol, Jean Harlow as a sexy tart, Wallace Beery as a crooked blowhard. So what if these assignments lacked creativity? MGM had stars, and knew how to use them. ▼

FILM



The Rock really connected with his character in *Be Cool*, Elliott, 'an earnest man who is genuine.'

A piece of The Rock

He plays a gay bodyguard in 'Be Cool'

by Tim Nasson

You may not know the name Dwayne Johnson, but you probably have heard of The Rock, as in the former professional wrestler who followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both professional wrestlers.

Just how does one go from that profession to top billing in the movies? It's not an easy feat. The last two wrestlers that come to mind who made it in movies, Andre the Giant (*The Princess Bride*) and Hulk Hogan (in various films in the late '80s), were hardly box office draws. The Rock's *The Scorpion King* was his first stab at the big screen and one of 2002's highest-grossing films and sequels, earning more than \$90 million during its theatrical run. The Rock has the honor of being in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for being the highest-paid actor receiving top billing for their first movie. His salary for *The Scorpion King*, \$5.5 million, pales in comparison to his two follow-up films, *The Rundown* and *Walking Tall*, which earned him \$12.5 million and \$15 million, respectively.

The Rock is back on the big screen, his first time in a supporting role, in *Be Cool*, the sequel to *Get Shorty* (both films based on Elmore Leonard novels), opposite A-listers John Travolta, Uma Thurman and Vince Vaughn. The Rock, who stands 6'5" and is half-black, half-Samoan, plays Elliott, a bodyguard, in *Be Cool*.

Fitting, you might say. He does have the physique for such a char-

acter. But he's not just a bodyguard. He's an openly gay bodyguard, and in this role, replete with an Afro. "It was a wig," he said during a recent interview at The Four Seasons in Beverly Hills. "Not my own hair. I grew my hair out about a half-an-inch, but what you see is a wig."

Why go from action star to comedic actor in a supporting role? You may be surprised at his response. "I didn't take the role specifically to get away from the action genre. I took the role because, for me, it was a meaty role, a challenge, and an opportunity to play a guy who was conflicted in a world that he didn't want to be in. Still, at the same time, he felt he had something to offer the world through song and dance. And he was a gay man who was proud, and by the end of the movie, embraced even more for being gay."

"Not only that, but in terms of drawing from things in my own life, I connected with Elliott," said The Rock. "Here's this aspiring actor — that was me five years ago. This is a guy who doesn't have any money — that was me eight years ago. I was lucky in my life because I had a lot of positive gay influences, and my mentor for many years is a strong, steadfast, truthful gay man, who by the way I've literally seen kick a lot of people's asses. He was a former professional wrestler."

Who was The Rock's mentor? "His name is Pat Robertson." Feel free to Google the name to learn more about him.

The Rock is not gay — he's happily married, with a four-year-old daughter — nor stupid, like

his character Elliott. He predicted how his latest role will be received by fans and the gay community.

"I think the audience that I have, my fans, will not care that I am playing a gay character. I think they are going to be very supportive because at the end of the day, I've always wanted to entertain, and I think they will appreciate my taking on the role. As far as the character being stupid, I don't think he is a stupid man. I think he is an earnest man who is genuine. And in Hollywood, there are a lot of people like Elliott!"

"I hope I don't get any criticism from the gay community, because the role was important to me from the get-go. I didn't want to turn it into a mockery or *Saturday Night Live* skit. I tried to play it as straight as I possibly could, no pun intended, and again it goes back to my ideology. It's my interpretation of what being a gay man is. The gay community has been very, very positive. Hopefully, it will stay that way. But my intent was just to play a guy who happened to be gay."

According to The Rock, Elmore Leonard wrote the character in the book with him in mind. "Meeting Elmore was a thrill, it was great. He'd come in from Detroit and he said: 'Oh, thank you so much for doing the movie. I wrote this for you about six or seven years ago. I thought of you as this aspiring actor.' I asked, 'Where'd the gay part come from?' And he said, 'I just thought that would be interesting.' I said, 'I love it. It's great.' He was great. He was really a great guy." *Now playing.* ▼

Aimard should be better known. His mastery of Messiaen and championing of Ligeti have prepared him well for the difficulties and beauties of Bartok. Even though he performed with an open score, the French virtuoso obviously has the Concerto down cold. He coaxed out every ounce of glittering melody, and managed a perfect rhythmic understanding.

Zinman bravely chose to present the entire score of the luxurious ballet *The Wooden Prince*. There was a slightly episodic feel

to the extended version, but excerpts would have been even more stop-and-go. It turned out to be a wonderful, fantastical trip through Bartok's pungently folk-inflected sound world. What a pleasant change from *The Firebird*.

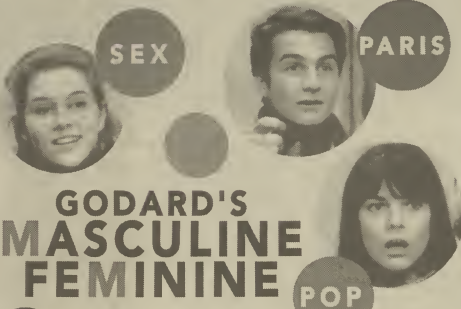
There was a gratifyingly attentive sell-out crowd, proving the sophistication and selectivity of San Francisco audiences. If MTT can't be here every week during the season, let's keep bringing back guest conductors of Zinman's stature. ▼

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SF Symphony

◀ page 32

anist tore the place up, too, and a visiting conductor put an equally invigorating stamp on another 20th-century writer.

David Zinman, formerly of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and current leader of the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, brought a fabulous all-Bartok bill to Davies. Soloist Pierre-Laurent Aimard contributed mightily with an astonishing Second Piano Concerto.

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The not-so-simple life

Bruce Wagner gets under Hollywood gloss

by Glen Helfand

Chrysanthemum Palace by Bruce Wagner; Simon & Schuster, \$23

American royalty stems from fame and fortune. Our princesses are Paris Hilton and Nicole Ritchie, young women notable for being dumb, thin, oversexed and drug-addicted daughters of the rich and famous. Their social position outside the mainstream is played for laughs, but it's not difficult to find the tragedy in their messy lives. It's another thing to explore the ambivalence of our interest—we're also meant to envy their spending power and celebrity status.

Bruce Wagner has forged a notable position in mining this kind of discomfiting zone, concentrating on the dark psychology beneath the gloss of the entertainment industry. In his novels, including the cell-phone-titled trilogy *I'm Losing You, I'll Let You Go*, and *Still Holding*, he crafted mordant, star-studded, occasionally self-indulgent visions of Hollywood, albeit with serious literary intentions. His new novel, *Chrysanthemum Palace*, is a more focused and humane look at similar territory, and one that points to the author's development as an artist to be reckoned with.

The volume is slim (and features a beautiful, black-and-white Ed Ruche painting on the cover), but Wagner's prose tends towards carbonara richness. He employs a mixture of pop and literary ambitions, and the combo is compelling. It's also reflected in the narrative, as the trio of characters each have famous parents—narrator Bertie Krohn's dad is the creator of a *Star Trek*-like franchise; Clea Fremantle, the emotionally fragile daughter of a legendary movie-star mom who died young; and Thad Michlet, an actor/writer whose more populist work creates inner conflicts with artistic legitimacy, as his overbearing literary father won multiple Pulitzers. Thad is slightly older than Bertie and Clea, who are both fast approaching 40, and deeper realizations as to where their lives are headed.

They serve as emblems of family dynamics that have resonance beyond ideas about fame. The characters grapple with the weight of family, of forging an identity beyond the shadows of one's forebears. These characters stand little chance of reaching, much less surpassing the achievements of their parents. And while their lineage may open doors, it certainly doesn't make them happy campers. Both Bertie and Clea, childhood friends and more recently a brief couple, are bonded by AA (though Bertie has constant suspicions that Clea's slipped off the wagon), while Thad subsists on handfuls of mood-regulating pharmaceuticals, which don't stop his train-wreck migraines.

These three tortured souls, all slumming it as actors, bond while appearing in Bertie's dad's TV show, *Starwatch: The Navigators*, and Clea rekindles a tempestuous love relationship with Thad. They form a brood bonded by their shared backgrounds, which at one point is described as "blue bloods, slightly inbred." They live in an isolated world where magical moments happen. Sharon Stone makes an extended cameo appear-



ance as a beautiful, surprisingly regal creature who may star in an adaptation of Thad's autobiographical novel, and they simply invite her over. (Wagner seems to use his fictional platform to do the same.)

High and low

Bertie tells their tale as a kind of footnoted journal, one with sometimes overwrought literary ambition. Yet he also has an HBO series in development, "a cross between *The Sopranos* and *Entourage*" with the "Aaron Spelling-like title *Holmby Hills*." High and low forms collide, and Wagner excels at surveying the resulting psychological rubble. The characters' conditions, for example, are paralleled by the convoluted sci-fi narratives they enact on the cheesy set of their TV show, Greek tragedy enveloped in space gas. The notion of scripts recurs, suggesting that the ubiquitous LA writing form has implications in

the way people live their lives as a fate written by someone else. Wagner also serves up a few *tour de force* neurotic monologues, as when Miriam, Thad's literary agent and Bertie's lover, obsesses over a business decision with supreme self-absorption.

Wagner also offers gloriously curdled visions of pop culture, such as a visit to Disney's California Adventure—"There was nothing but wide-open spaces filled with porcine, handicapped families tooling around in rented, motorized tricycles." And when Bertie voices his ennu, he's accused of sounding "like an intern at the Voice."

These are laugh-out-loud moments, but what is most persuasive about *Chrysanthemum Palace* is its sense of humanity. Wagner's other novels have been swaddled in thick layers of dark satire concerning death and the Hollywood dream. In this book, he reveals a mellowing richness, a more humane concern for his fucked-up characters.

Wagner approaches the task fearlessly. During a road trip, Bertie has an epiphany about an argument he had with Clea. "Somewhere around the Ronald Reagan Library, Clea's words began reverberating in my head—'You're not your father, and that must really fucking hurt'—her face dissolving into Liz Taylor's then Dorothy Malone's, a demented montage of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Written on the Wind*." It's a fabulous passage, and the mixture of elements is a revealing example of what makes this novel so compelling. ▽

The Rio thing

Brazilian music on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

The Brazilian invasion of the 1960s began around the same time as the British invasion, and has continued to go just as strong, although it never achieved the same kind of overt success or status. As subtle as the music itself, the Brazilian invasion is undergoing an exhilarating revival via recordings both new and old.



For some background, a good place to start might be *Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars: Bossa Nova Sung in English* (Universal). Part of the *Pure Brazil* series, this accessible compilation is a good entry point since it combines vintage Bossa Nova tracks with English-language lyrics. Essentially, you have Brazilian artists such as Sylvia Telles, Astrud Gilberto, Milton Nascimento, Elis Regina, An-

tonio Carlos Jobim and Tom Jobim, to mention a few, performing their unique style of music, but making it safe for those with a trace of xenophobia. Perhaps the most successful crossover act of this sort, Sergio Mendes & Brasil 66 is represented by two tracks, "Like a Lover (Cantador)" and "Pretty World (Samarina)."



The trio known as Bossacucanova (DJ Dalua, Alexandre Moreira and Marcio Menescal) invites listeners on a "groovy journey" with their CD *Uma Batida Diferente* (Six Degrees). Taking their cues from both traditional Bossa Nova and contemporary samples and beat-driven club music, Bossacucanova incorporates the programming and turntable work into its song to create an eminently danceable style of music. This is an example of how technology and tradition

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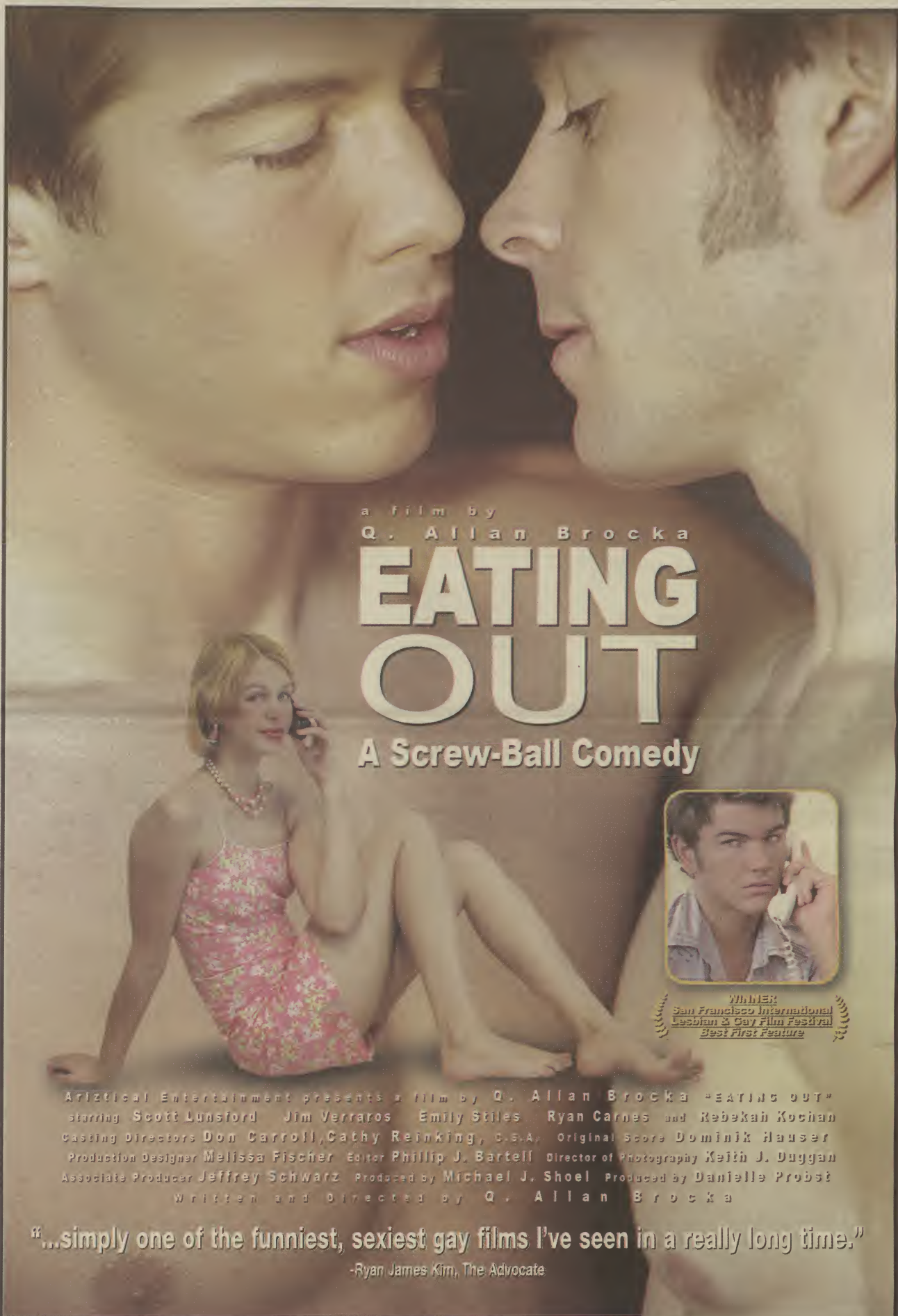
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Witness his 'Downfall'

Actor Bruno Ganz on playing the face of evil

by David Lamble

The Cambodian leader Pol Pot was reported to have had the sweetest smile. Many who met with him are said to have been charmed by what they imagined lay behind that radiant, seemingly kind human face. Many of those individuals must have gone to their graves wondering what sign they had missed, what might have clued them in to the human nature behind that mask, a manifestation of almost pure evil.

Bruno Ganz recalls a childhood in a German-language canton in Switzerland that was occasionally disturbed when a frightening voice came on the radio. Even a Swiss child of three or four could detect the scary intonations behind the broadcast tirades of Herr Hitler. A child did not have to wonder whether the monster on the radio had a human face.

The human face of Adolph Hitler that emerges in 150 minutes of screentime in the new German-produced film *Downfall* is the splendidly weathered countenance of 64-year-old Bruno Ganz. On a day in SF when the sun was doing its best to shine through our winter monsoon, sitting in a reception room of the Goethe-Insti-

tut wearing a black cashmere sweater and looking as much like Hitler as my late uncle Bill, Ganz says he didn't exactly leap at the chance to portray the Austrian-born German leader. Included in the package of materials from the film's producer was a video of a 1956 film in which a theatre actor met the challenge. Ganz says within three minutes he was seduced by the illusion that this old actor was Hitler.

"Seeing this German film, I understood that it was possible for an actor to portray Hitler, because before I shared the concern of almost every German actor that it would not be possible to give, as we say, evil a face," Ganz turns to me and a female translator, sitting in on our chat, and asks whether the words he was searching for were "moral scruples." He smiles, and then after conceding his real fear that this part might find its way into the first paragraph of his obituary, says, "I finally said, 'The hell with scruples, let's just go for it.'"

The human face of Hitler presented by Ganz that has pleased and troubled many critics shines through in two fascinating subplots involving Hitler's longtime mistress Eva Braun, and the man who came closest to being considered a friend to a man incapable

of friendship, the charismatic Reich architect Albert Speer. The moment the dashing Speer strides into the bunker (Heino Ferch conveys a man who is both fastidious and immune to the sycophancy endemic to the Nazi hierarchy), you sense he was the real lover, or the real something. Ganz says the bond between Hitler and Speer was so complicated that neither man could adequately describe it. "It's often said that there was a homosexual relationship, but I would say homoerotic, yes, but a lot of men like each other and even touch without being homosexual. I don't think they went to bed together. Hitler liked his mind, he liked his body, he liked to watch him. He offered him the position as an architect for the whole Third Reich."

Ganz believes that Speer, in his impulsive last visit to the bunker, was not only bidding farewell to his mentor, but also pleading for Hitler to spare the German people his fierce determination to leave the advancing Allied armies nothing but a scorched desert to conquer.

Hidden mistress

Juliane Kohler plays Eva as a mixture of party mix and repressed hausfrau. Kohler bears a remarkable physical resemblance to Rainer Werner Fassbinder's leading lady, Hanna Schygulla, and brings the same vivacious skills to flesh out a character whom Hitler deliberately kept in the background during the height of his power. Ganz says his own extensive readings into Hitler's private life gave him some insight into this enigmatic but crucial relationship. "He had known her for a long time but had always hidden her, because, he said, 'I don't want to disappoint the German women, because they are married to me, and it is not allowed to have a woman on my side.'"

"Everybody around Hitler knew about this relationship. Even now, we don't know if it was a sexual relationship or not. They lived in the same house. The decision to get close to him, to go into the bunker with him, was her decision. He didn't like it, but she forced him. She never understood him really, and he could feel this and understand that it was an important relationship."



Ganz found a homoerotic component to Hitler's friendship with Speer.

Ganz gets a kick out my description of his Hitler — one moment the kind boss or gentle pet-owner, and the next moment the raving lunatic with spittle flying

out of his mouth — as performing like a racing car, able to go from 0 to 60 in under 10 seconds. He explains that the part had de-

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Love's labor lost

by Robert Julian

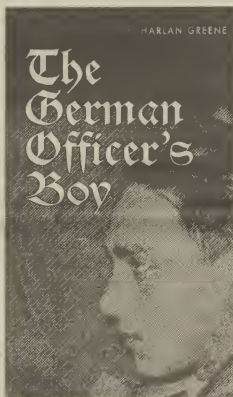
The German Officer's Boy by Harlan Greene; University of Wisconsin Press, \$26.95

Any love story that ends with one lover killing the other will be full of tragic overtones. But when the lover's death inspires the murder of thousands of innocents, the tragedy becomes almost overwhelming. This is the dark cloud that hovers over the events detailed in Harlan Greene's *The German Officer's Boy*.

Inspired by a true story, Greene's novel attempts to fill in the blanks left by history. On November 7, 1938, a 17-year-old Polish Jew named Herschel Grynszpan shoots a German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath, five times with a pistol. The shooting takes place at the German Embassy in Paris. Two days later, vom Rath dies of his wounds. On that same day, with the newspapers touting the murder of a German diplomat by a Jewish infidel, the Kristallnacht attacks take place throughout Germany. Jews are murdered, arrested, and their homes and places of business are destroyed. But instead of the Jewish conspiracy portrayed in the German press, author Greene proposes a simpler and more human inspiration for the death of vom Rath.

Herschel Grynszpan lives with this aunt and uncle in pre-war Paris as a Polish refugee. The pre-war treatment of Jews in Paris was more civil than the treatment of Jews in his native Poland, but young Herschel lives in Paris without job skills or official papers. Constantly harassed by his uncle, Herschel drifts into male prostitution as a means of making money, before a chance meeting with Ernst vom Rath at a Parisian gay bar, *Le Boeuf sur le Toit*. In *The German Officer's Boy*, this chance meeting leads to a genuine love affair between the German diplomat and the Jewish refugee.

But the love affair cannot transcend the political realities of the time, and vom Rath is unable to secure the official papers Herschel seeks. Polish Jews living legally outside of Poland are about to have their visas revoked while simultaneously being denied the



right to repatriate to Poland. They will become homeless and soon be rounded up and sent to concentration camps. The plight of Polish Jews without papers is even worse. Green posits that the confrontation between Herschel and vom Rath at the embassy was over vom Rath's inability to secure paperwork, and that the shooting was somehow accidental. This allegation is more convenient to Greene's narrative of a genuine love affair than five bullet wounds would seem to indicate, but it does not diminish the power of his story.

After his arrest, Herschel becomes a flashpoint of international political controversy. Given Germany's treatment of Jews, who could blame the young boy for his act? Imprisoned for years without trial, Herschel becomes a political football. Finally falling into German hands after Hitler invades France, Herschel's value as an example of "the Jewish conspiracy" is crushed when the Nazis learn of his affair with vom Rath. Hitler and Joseph Goebbels correspond about the Herschel problem, and Goebbels' diary contains references to Herschel's affair with vom Rath and the difficulties it presents. Ultimately Herschel ends up in a concentration camp before he disappears from history entirely. For both Herschel Grynszpan and Ernst vom Rath, *The German Officer's Boy* serves as a footnote to their personal stories, and a tragic illumination of the consequences of gay love in intolerant times. ▼

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ART. MIKE THORN

Good morning, Baghdad

New documentary visits 'Gunner Palace'

by David Lamble

We dropped a bomb on it, and now we party in it." Capturing the adventures of 400 American GIs living in a bombed-out palace constructed for the son of Saddam Hussein, *Gunner Palace* is both the year's first great documentary and perhaps the best evidence yet of life in George Bush's Iraq. Dubbed "Gunner Palace" in honor of artillery troops who first attacked it and now squat in it, the palace is an odd cross of the remains of the grand ballroom on the Titanic, the baronial home of William Randolph Hearst, and what a Las Vegas architect on acid might envision if given an unlimited supply of pink marble, and asked to design a fantasy playpen for a Middle Eastern sultan.

Now cavorting around the love shack of Uday Hussein is a Play Station generation of young Americans raised in small towns. Filmmaker Michael Tucker eschews the standard PBS documentary of well-meaning but exasperated soldiers doubling as Peace Corps volunteers and Swat Team members, instead giving us an insider's take on how a gaggle of teenagers spend their downtime in a land sans sex, booze and 24/7 TV.

The kid who stays in and steals this picture is a 19-year-old, loose-hipped, guitar-playing comedy prodigy from Colorado. Stuart Wilf sports a kind of raccoon's mask around dark brown eyes that may be the legacy of sleepless nights from having grown up just down the road from Columbine. Now that the movie industry's rating appeals board has awarded *Gunner Palace* a teen-friendly PG-13, one is tempted to ignore that whenever Wilf pops up on the screen, this film is begging for the Martha Stewart house-arrest of NC-17. In one scene, Wilf sports a black T-shirt emblazoned with an obscene slogan as he proudly points to the background screen on his laptop, which boasts, "Blow jobs for \$10."

Better than embedded

Filmmaker Tucker, who appears to have shot the entire movie himself handheld, is more than Donald Rumsfeld's idea of an embedded correspondent. In fact, Tucker calls the film's core cast his "roommates," and demonstrates an easy familiarity with his subjects. Tucker favors delivering his off-screen narration in a voice that seldom rises above a stage whisper. He doesn't ambush his subjects with a barely hidden agenda, but ap-



400 American GIs live in a bombed-out palace built for Uday Hussein.

pears to elicit confessions and behavior prompted and inspired by trust.

Early in the film, in a 30-second scene that may provoke the feeling that your head is about to do a Linda Blair-like 360, Wilf is riffing on a bass guitar solo for the benefit of an older Iraqi gentleman. Basil, as an on-screen slug informs us, is an attorney by day and an interpreter for the Americans by night. He comes off as William Burroughs might have in a cameo for W.C. Fields. Wilf, baseball cap pulled down to cover his eyes, quips, "Basil is the coolest Iraqi I've ever met. We both like having a good time." To which Basil replies with a giggle of a schoolgirl, "We both want to fuck." Totally unabashed Wilf shoots back, "Oh, yeah. But not each other. He might want to fuck me, but ah, no."

The bulk of *Gunner Palace* consists of a series of rants by various GIs, juxtaposed against self-parodying excerpts from American Forces Radio. A trooper does a hilarious spoof on the ramifications of soldiers installing do-it-yourself armor on their vulnerable humvees; a black training officer throws up his hands at the impossibility of instructing would-be Iraqi soldiers who just show up for a paycheck; a homegrown rap troop revives the genre's relevance with a series of saucy riffs. Specialist Richmond Shaw makes up an Eminem-like verse: "For you all it's just a show, but we live in this movie."

The collaboration between American soldiers and Iraqi sympathizers is highlighted in a raid on a local coffeehouse by GIs

searching for members of a terrorist mortar cell. With an entire room full of middle-aged Iraqi men sitting sullenly, hands up-raised, the scene recalls Gene Hackman's Oscar turn as the racist but very competent drug cop Popeye Doyle: "Near fear, Popeye's here." Having found his suspects, the American commander rides off into the night with a jaunty, "Enjoy the rest of your evening."

Gunner Palace reinforces our Vietnam experience that in wartime, seeing is seldom believing. An Iraqi cowboy with the unlikely nickname of Mohammed "Mike" Tyson goes from friendly cop to double agent by movie's end.

With comic moments that rival the absurdities of fictional films like *Good Morning Vietnam*, *Gunner Palace* sparkles with a stream of non sequiturs: a unit conducts a nighttime raid on a suspected ammunition dump, loudspeakers blaring the "Ride of the Valkyries" theme played in *Apocalypse Now* during the helicopter raid on a native village. On another day, the soldiers find themselves playing school truant officers, picking up a glue-sniffing teenager who's been caught shoplifting.

A slightly embittered non-com reflects on the difficulty of making sense of all of this for a state-side film audience. "After you watch this, you're going to go and get your popcorn out of the microwave and talk about what I say. You'll forget me by the end of this. [Long pause.] Only people who'll remember this are us." Now playing. ▽

ing to exact the last bit of revenge from suspected traitors to the Reich. German officers holed up in burned-out flats for wild orgies with drugs and hookers, and the final defense of the city was left to ragtag armies of children as young as 12.

Inside the bunker, Hitler's ravings are practically upstaged by the almost unbearable drama of the poisoning of the six children of propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels (Ulrich Matthes imparts some humanity to a universally despised character) by Frau Goebbels (Corinna Harfouch finds some chilling notes for a personality darker than Lady

Macbeth), who couldn't bear to see her children "grow up in a world without National Socialism."

Ganz prepared himself for this acting summit with screen roles like the angel who wishes to become human in Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire*, the troubled reporter dodging bullets in war-torn Beirut in Volker Schlöndorff's *Circle of Deceit*, and an odd portrayal of a German scientist who tells Laurence Olivier's Nazi-fighter about a plot to clone (you guessed it) Adolf Hitler in the 1978 triumph of Nazi kitsch, Franklin J. Schaffner's *The Boys from Brazil*. Opens Friday. ▽

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Downfall

◀ previous page

mands built into it that are totally unlike most modern film roles. "In movies these days, that's not what you usually have to do. Because I'm a stage actor as well, I like the opportunity to have these violent outbursts."

Ganz thoroughly dominates the film, directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel and written by Joachim Fest, adapted from two books. *Downfall* also conveys the fierce life-and-death struggle on the streets of Berlin, where Nazi death squads roamed freely, look-

OUT&ABOUT

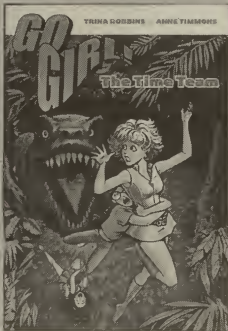


Experience the fiery, sensuous sounds, sights and tastes of the modern Middle East as *Electric Vardo* debuts at Polo's Blue Cube. See Friday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

You GoGirl!

A super heroine will be the featured reader at this week's latest installment of "Smack Dab", the chic literary spot at Magnet, the gay men's health center in heart of the Castro. The main event for the open-mic night this Wednesday, March 16 is mighty **Trina Robbins**, author of the super-powered *GoGirl!* series of graphic novels, illustrated by Anne Timmons. Plus, just in time for St. Patrick's Day, she has authored *Wild Irish Roses: Tales of Brigits, Kathleens, and Warrior Queens* (Conari Press), which ventures from mythic times to our times. *Wild Irish Roses* is a celebration of tough, independent, beautiful Irish women from myth to modernity.



Trina Robbins

Among those profiled are Maeve and six other warrior queens; Grania and Deirdre, who ran away from kings for the love of younger men; five women who turned themselves into birds to get the job done right; Saint Brigit and the saintly Kathleen O'Shea; cultural revivalist Maude Gonne and friends; Irish-American beauty roses, including Scarlett O'Hara; and warriors in their own right, such as Mother Jones and company. As the book's publicity says, "The women in *Wild Irish Roses* are not always nice girls or even good girls, but they are women who know how to get things done, whether on the battlefield or in the bedroom."

By her own account, Robbins has been writing and drawing comics and books for over thirty years. She lives in San Francisco and loves cats and vintage clothing. The latest in the *GoGirl!* series is *Go Girl! The Time Team*, the plot of which tells us super-hero fans we're in for a riotous good time:

"Today is like any other day in Grover Cleveland High's science lab — any day in the Jurassic Era, that is! Doc, the school genius, has rigged up a tight little time machine masquerading as an exercise bike, all fine and good until pretty-girl princess Heather caps a ride and drags herself, Doc, and Lindsay Goldman — a.k.a. teen superhero GoGirl! — back several millions years into the dinosaur-infested jungles of the long-gone past. If being late for cheerleader practice isn't enough of an annoyance, try ditching a hungry T-Rex! And where did those alien spaceships come from?!"

As always "Smack Dab" will be hosted by those queer literary darlings **Kirk Read** and **Larry-bob Roberts**, and as always it's at Magnet, where you can expect to encounter a wild array of readers and performers along with the night's diva.

"Smack Dab" kicks off with a 7:30 p.m. signup, and the show at 8 p.m. Those who want to take part are invited to bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany, along with "your charm and magic and cheerful can-do attitude. Or just come and watch and cheer folks on. All ages and genders will be welcomed and adored."

Magnet is located at 4122 18th Street between Castro and Collingwood. Info: www.magnetsf.org. You can contact Trina at wuff@juno.com. ▼



Dance, feast, drink, watch videos and join The LGBT Center in celebrating the release of Joshua Gamson's *The Fabulous Sylvester*. See Friday.

Fri 11

The Fabulous Sylvester @ The LGBT Center

Join The Center in celebrating the release of *The Fabulous Sylvester: The Legend, the Music, the Seventies in San Francisco*, written by San Francisco's own Joshua Gamson. Celebrate the life and times of Sylvester James, an icon from the age of disco, and SF's ambassador of freedom and fabulousness. Dance to Sylvester's music, toast him with his old friends, watch video clips of Sylvester, and enjoy delicious food and beverages. Honor one of our own champion activists as March 11 is again officially declared Sylvester Day, as it was back in 1979! \$10 donation (NOTAFLOR); for \$20, guests will also receive a CD of Sylvester's music, donated by Fantasy Records (while supplies last). The book will be sold at the party while supplies last. Donations, and 10% of that evening's book sales, will benefit The Center. Special thanks to Books, Inc., Fantasy Records, The GLBT Historical Society, and Taste Catering. 5:30-8:30pm at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: (415) 865-5502; events@sfccenter.org.

Electric Vardo

@ Polo's Blue Cube

Grand Opening: Electric Vardo, a new monthly featuring: DAS Collective (DJs Dragonfly-Amar-Sep) and VARD0 Collective (Ultra Gypsy, DJ Sep, Amar). A unique global experience with live music, DJs, dance, visual art and culinary delights. Tonight's focus is on the East: South Asia and beyond. Infusions of ragas from the streets of Calcutta, the spicy flavors of Bengal, the rhythmic motion of Bhangra dancers, live percussion, and DJs spinning tribal breaks, exotic house, global chill, Middle Eastern drum & bass, and rhythms & melodies from far-off saffron-scented lands. Featuring the live Asian percussion ensemble Tabla Rasa; drum & bass masters Lumin; guest DJs Soulsalaam, Jimmy Love and members of the Dhamaal Collective; dance by Dhol Rhythms, a Bhangra Dance Troup, and Frederique of Belly Groove. Art installation by Jimmy Love. Guest chef Amar joins in-house chef Sterling, with liquid diva Salie behind the bar. \$10 adv. or b4 10pm; \$12 after; free b4 8pm. Dinner w/live music 8-10pm (\$25 prix fixe menu; walk-ins welcome; no cover for dinner guests). 7pm-4am. Polo's Blue Cube, 34 Mason St. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-259-8629; electricvardo.com; jambasetickets.com

Terese Genecco

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge

Terese Genecco, winner of the SF Bay Area Cabaret Competition, performs "Somebody Loves Me!", an eclectic, creative combination of standards from the Great American Songbook, cabaret gems, traditional gospel hymns, fifties rock n' roll, and sixties love songs. With Barry Lloyd on piano, Daniel

Fabricant on bass, and Fil Lorenz on tenor sax. Genecco's presentation is similar to her idol, an outrageous nightclub singer from the '40s and '50s, Frances Faye. Genecco is presenting a tribute to Faye in a five-week run this summer at NCTC (Jul. 14-Aug. 14). Cover: \$20; \$10 food/drink minimum. Three shows: Mar. 10 @ 7:30pm; Mar. 11 @ 9pm; Mar. 13 @ 3pm. 1772 Market St. at Octavia Blvd. Tix: 415-863-3690; 415-863-3516.

One Room

@ Cesar Chavez Student Center, UC Berkeley

Two solitudes touch at a tangent as BareStage Productions presents *One Room*, an original play written and directed by Melody Parker and choreographed by James Graham, running March 11-13, 2005. "A man in a solitary confinement cell clings to his memories of the outside world, filling the empty space with his imagination. In another time and space, a young woman retreats to the isolation of her room. In *One Room*, memory gives way to imagination, which filters into dreams. And dreams become uncannily real. In a provocative synthesis of forms, this play fuses drama and imagery with dance and



Indonesian performance artist Didik Nini Thowok dances at an exclusive Tsunami fundraiser at designer Timothy Leung's Pleasant Hill home gallery. See Friday.

improvised music. *One Room* is at once starkly chilling and bursting with color. Show runs Fri., Mar. 11 at 8pm Sat., Mar. 12 at 3pm and 8pm Sun., Mar. 13 at 3pm. Tickets online at tickets.berkeley.edu at the rate of \$5/students and \$7/non-students. *One Room* performs in Choral Rehearsal Hall in Cesar Chavez Student Center on the UC Berkeley campus. Directions at: ucchoral.berkeley.edu/ucchoral/barestage

Paula West

@ Empire Plush Room

Paula West continues her extended run at the elegant, acoustically superior Empire Plush Room, following up on acclaimed shows in NYC at the Algonquin's Oak Room, the Blue Note, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. West is joined by Eric Reed on piano, Gerald Canon on bass, and Mark Taylor on drums. \$30-\$35 plus 2-drink minimum. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 5pm Sun. Thru March 20. Tix/info: 415-885-2800; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.paula-west.com; www.plushroom.com

Didik Nini Thowok/Tsunami Fundraiser @ Pleasant Hill

Internationally renowned designer/photographer Timothy Leung opens the garden environment of his own residence gallery at Lafayette/Pleasant Hill to host an exclusive evening with Indonesian performance artist, choreographer, dancer, teacher, mime, actor, make-up artist, comedian and singer Didik Nini Thowok (didiknithowok.info), part of an effort to raise funds for Tsunami victim relief. Thowok, who blends the arts of Java and Bali, will perform a few classical and modern dance numbers. Be hypnotized by his fascinating double-jointed body movements. An intimate affair, with mini-workshop with Didik if time allows. Harsanari Dance School (www.harsanari.com) and members of Gamelan Sekar Jaya Orchestra (www.gsj.org) will accompany Didik. Bring pillow & blanket to sit on. Food & drink available for sale. Sponsored by Amron Paul Yuwono of Gecko Gecko Indonesian & South East Asia Art Store (www.geckogeco.biz). Advance tix: \$30 gen'l; \$20 student. \$40 at door. There will be a separate fundraiser for Tsunami victims at this event. Space limited. Three shows: Fri., Mar. 11 @ 8pm (door opens 7pm); Sat., Mar. 12 @ 8pm; Sun., Mar. 13 @ 3pm (door opens 2pm). Leung residence gallery, 1002 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill. Tix/RSVP: 415-701-1010; 415-505-4322; 925-689-6865; email playgecko@yahoo.com

Sat 12

Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted! @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the NCTC and San Francisco debut of the one-and-only Miss Coco Peru in her newest cabaret show, *Miss Coco Peru Is Undaunted!* — an intelligent, theatrical, musical and witty drag autobiographical monologue with New York-style satire. In 1991, at New York's Rose's Turn, storyteller and monologist Clinton Leupp starred in his first hit show, *Miss Coco Peru In My Goddamn Cabaret*. Since then Leupp has produced a string of shows featuring Miss Coco Peru, and has appeared on stages in L.A., Beverly Hills, London, Lisbon and Mexico, as well as on television shows and films. \$30 Thu. Sun.; \$25 Wed.; \$20 previews. Runs March 12-April 3, Wed.-Sat. at 8pm and Sun. at 2pm. Previews are March 10 & 11. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org



Tori Amos autographs her new book and CD at Booksmith. See Tuesday.

Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance @ Women's Building

Renowned, charismatic caller Dean Allemang comes from Boston to call to the live music of Band du Jour. Contra is an exuberant barndance that's easy to learn and very beginner friendly. No partner, special attire or experience required. Everyone is welcome. \$10 (or pay what you can). 8-10:30pm (doors open 7:45pm). The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (btwn Guerrero & Valencia). Info: www.lcfd.org/sf/

Contemporary Crafts Market @ Ft. Mason Festival Pavilion

Two days only: More than 250 top crafts artists unite to sell and display functional, decorative and fine art at the Contemporary Crafts Market, with hand-thrown ceramics, intricate jewelry, unique glassware, vintage-inspired textiles and wearable art, wood and glass furniture and much more by American artists. Sat., Mar. 12 from 10am-7pm, and Sun., Mar. 13 from 10am-5pm. \$6 adults; 12 and under free. Patrons of the SF Chronicle Wine Competition Tasting on Mar. 12 in the Herbst Pavilion are invited to attend the Crafts Market at no additional charge. Info: 415-995-4925; www.CraftSource.org

Off the Grid @ SF LGBT Community Center

Opening reception: The SF LGBT Community Center and The Queer Cultural Center present a three-person exhibition, *Off the Grid*, with works of photography, oil on canvas, and acrylic on glass by Jerry Frost, Kevin Mosley and Elliott Linwood. Frost's lush blasts of color occupy the fourth floor; Mosley's outlined caricatures and idealizations are displayed on the third floor; Linwood's Fuji Crystal Archival photographic prints of digital color images can be viewed on the second floor. Reception 3-6pm Sat., Mar. 12. Exhibit will be up through Mar. 31. The Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.sfcenter.org

Game Night @ Three Dollar Bill Café

Three Dollar Bill Café invites all to their new monthly Game Night. Grab your deck of cards, your favorite board, strategy or party games and come to the cafe on Sat., March 12 at 5:30pm. Singles, couples and multiples are all welcome to join an evening of friendly competition and refreshments. Attendees will break into groups, playing several different games to accommodate everyone. Mixing and matching is encouraged as each game ends. Free. 5:30pm. At the SF LGBT Community Center, main floor, 1800 Market St. at Octavia. Info: threedollarbill.com.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their monthly potluck at 12 noon at the San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Open to residents of the East Bay and Western Contra Costa Counties. Volunteers of all ages needed to be friendly visitors for socially isolated seniors. Info/rides from BART: Peggy Moore at 510-667-9655.

Azucar @ The Forum, Sunnyvale

Grand opening: Club Papi Productions present Azucar, the South Bay's new sizzling monthly Latin fiesta, with three levels and

two dance floors. In the Main Room: DJ Marco (Pan Dulce; Club Papi) spins Spanish, hip hop, house and Reggaeton. Hip hop room: DJ Jay-R (The Cafe). Exclusive: Epic Records present the official Jennifer Lopez CD release party for the new album *Rebirth*, featuring the hit single "Get Right" and "Hold You Down" with Fat Joe. Free CD give-aways all night. Super sexy Latin go-go's. Wet Lube give-aways. First 150 people get in free. \$10 cover. 9:30pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. The Forum Nightclub, 146 S. Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale. Info: 408-793-0113; www.clubpapi.com

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Jamming Down Under" and "Techno-Pranks," as a pair of seasoned agent-provocateurs revel in the culture wars. David Cox returns from Australia with outrageous documentation of the Aussie culture-jamming front, never seen in the US. Jesse Drew presents his comprehensive review of Google hacks, fake websites, and cutting-edge meme warfare. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; othercinema.com

Sun 13

Cajun Babes @ The Victorian Englander House

The Victorian Englander House presents *Cajun Babes*, a night of Cajun, Zydeco and Blues tunes, featuring Catherine Matovich on fiddle, Andrew Carriere on accordion, Marty Jara on guitar, Elaine Herrick on bass, and Timothy Orr on drums. \$10-\$15. Two performances on Sun., Mar. 13 at 7:30 & 8:45pm. Info: 415-362-6080; www.sfdassicalmusic.com

SF Hiking Club @ Butano State Park

The Butano State Park Orchid Loop offers many pleasures, including ocean panoramas and dense, moist coastal woodlands, but its greatest prize is the small, delicate Calypso Orchid that peaks in early spring. It's a moderate 11-mile hike with a 1,400-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Mon 14

Gorgeous, A Journey of the Body @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's YouthAware Program again presents *Gorgeous, A Journey of the Body*, a one-woman play by Anna Furze, starring Natalie Saibel and directed by Gwen Lobe. It's a theatre-in-education program for teens about the struggles that young people have with body image and aspiring towards "ideal" beauty. This unique one-woman show takes us on an Alice in Wonderland-type journey through the ages as it observes our shifting relationships with our bodies and the media's influence on body image. \$7 students; \$10 adults; \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more. Shows at 10am and 11:45am, Mon.-Thu., March 14-24. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-4914, ext. 109; email youthaware@nctcsf.org

Queer Salsa/Club 2 Step @ Queer Ballroom Studios

Queer Salsa & Club 2 Step classes (a weekly event). No partner or experience needed for series. 7pm Night Club 2 Step basics.

8pm Salsa basic and intermediate steps. Donation \$10 all ages. Free if under 21. Prep for Series and get half off 13 monthly parties. Monday, March 14 At the new Queer Ballroom Studios, 151 Potrero at 15th. Info: 415-305-8242; QueerBallroom.com

QComedy @ The Center

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," hosted by Ronn Vigh, with improv troupe The Mirth Brokers with Gerri Lawlor, Amma, Lisa Geduldig and featuring Bridget Schwartz. Reception 7:30; show at 8pm. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 415-541-5610; qcomedy.com

Tue 15

Tori Amos @ Booksmith

Booksigning with multi-platinum recording artist Tori Amos, whose new book, *Tori Amos: Piece by Piece* (\$23.95 hardback), gives fans unprecedented access to her creative life, her personal history, her muses, and her artistic process. She has also released a CD, *The Beekeeper*. Tickets required. Tickets are issued with purchase of the book or CD at The Booksmith. (One ticket can get both items signed.) This is a signing only. There will be no reading or presentation. Due to the expected large turn-out, Tori Amos will only be able to sign copies of her new book or compact disc. 7-10pm. Booksmith, 1644 Haight St. Info/tix: 415-863-8688; booksmith.com

Wed 16

Joshua Gamson

@ ACWLP for Books

Reading/book signing with USF sociology professor Joshua Gamson, author of *The Fabulous Sylvester*. He takes us back to San Francisco in the 1970s, following the rise of disco sensation Sylvester, a singer who embodied the freedom, spirit and flamboyance of a golden moment in American culture. Free. 7pm. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Ave. (at Opera Plaza). Info: 415-441-6670; www.bookstore.com

Smack Dab @ Magnet

Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts host "Smack Dab" at Magnet in the Castro. See "Calendare".

Thu 17

Lizz Roman & Dancers' CellGround @ CellSpace

Lizz Roman & Dancers present *CellGround*, a site-specific installation designed for the architecture of CellSpace. Featuring nine dancers and a live soundscore by Alex Kelly (cello) and Clyde Sheets (DJ). Conceived and directed by Lizz Roman, Roman turns the cavernous warehouse/theater into a multi-tiered dancers' playground as dancers utilize the rafters, beams, ramps, banisters, stairs, roof, walls, doorways, counters and ladders to explore the raw elements of the building's architecture. The first half of *CellGround* is viewed from the main floor; the second half invites the audience upstairs while the performers transition downstairs to dance in unexpected places. \$20 gen'l adm. 8pm Thu.-Sat., March 17-19 & 24-26. CellSpace, 2050 Bryant St. at 19th St. Tix: 415-269-1283.

Susan Stinson @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading/booksigning with Susan Stinson, author of *Venus of Chalk* (Firebrand Books). It is the story of an awakening mouse. Book Marks syndicated columnist Richard LaBonte named it as one of the top ten fiction books of 2004. Stinson's other books are *Martha Moody*, *Fat Girl Dances with Rocks*, and *Belly Songs*. A short story and an article about fat queer writers and artists is expected to appear in the December 2004 issue of *Lambda Book Report*. She is currently at work on a novel about 18th century preacher Jonathan Edwards. She lives in Northampton, Massachusetts. Her livejournal can be found at www.livejournal.com/~susanstinson. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

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Asian-American

◀ Arts cover

hope chest of possible futures.

His previous and more obviously schematically plotted feature *Drift* took three languid fantasy laps around the pool of a young Asian American writer's desire to free himself from a dead love-bed. *Ethan Mao* is both a more and less straightforward attempt to diagram all the sources of the title kid's anger over his disinheritance by a grouchy father following the death of his beloved mother. Gay kids often have their most serious issues with misguided dads, and the movie's strongest suit is the dramatic tension between the loss of a father and possible acquisition of a big brother/lover. The film slips around a bit in giving full weight to the plight of the new wife, opting for a slightly too desperate-housewife-like banter instead of character development. Its strengths are the winsome sincerity of its leads, Jun Hee Lee as Ethan and Jerry Hernandez, as would-be paramour Remigio, and its fresh take on a *My Own Private Idaho* slice of tortured emotion. (PFA, 3/11; Castro, 3/12)

Saving Face "Ma, I love you, and I'm gay." "How can you say those two things at once?" A young Chinese American woman, caught between the suffocating comfort zone of a suburban (Flushing) ethnic enclave and the fast-paced Manhattan world of lesbian love,

A young woman is caught between family and lesbian love in *Saving Face*.

spends a whole movie making great use of her MTA Metro Pass while juggling the competing demands of the women in her life. First-time writer/director Alice Wu (the script was begun on the downside slope of a doomed dot-com job) shows how hard it is to keep a girlfriend in a world awash with clueless older relatives. Our heroine Wilhelmina Pang, or Wil (Michelle Krusiec), is just starting to settle in for a hot girl affair when her still very attractive mother (Joan Chen is a major asset at the core of the film's most provocative dilemma) shows up on her doorstep unmarried, pregnant and very much in disgrace. Burdened by a few too many subplots, *Saving Face* manages to amuse and instruct. I was especially excited by the audacity of Wu's shooting a crucial mother/daughter scene in the back of a very noisy NYC bus. An odd footnote: *Saving Face* was greenlighted by Will Smith's production company. (Castro, Opening Night, 3/10)

Butterfly A prep-school teacher's accidental sighting of a schoolgirl grazing in a supermarket aisle kicks off this tender woman's romance from writer/director Yan Yan Mak (based on Chen Xue's original story, "The Mark of Butterfly"). Flavia (Hong Kong star Josie Ho) doesn't realize how bored she's become in her "perfect" middle-class nest of hubby and infant daughter until schoolgirl Yip (Tian Yuan) lures her with the promise of a feverish, career-threatening affair. The film's ace in the hole and its challenge to viewers is the parallel story of the collapse of Flavia's own schoolgirl romance 15 years before with a re-

bellious young woman who has since become a Buddhist nun. Shot in distinctive styles, the two stories eventually cohere, although you may want to see this one a second time to see just how. Political metaphors abound between "illicit" and unorthodox love in a conservative Asian society, with the upheaval of Tiananmen Square and Hong Kong's emergence from the cocoon of colonialism. Some great pop references include a Janis Joplin poster that seems to wink at the havoc caused by home-wrecking lesbian love. (Castro, 3/13; Kabuki, 3/15)

The Motel Writer/director Michael Kang gets us thoroughly involved in the coming of age of a chubby Chinese American boy whose days are spent nurturing a writing talent (despite a bossy mom who equates a contest "honorable mention" with failure), and nights spent washing the residue of sex off the plastic-covered bedding at a seedy Upstate New York motel that supports three generations of a family abandoned by its main breadwinner, his father.

Ernest (a believable teen played talented novice Jeffrey Chyau) finds a most unlikely mentor in Sam (a nice turn from *Better Luck Tomorrow* star Sung Kang), a volatile Korean American playboy with his own dark secrets. Director Kang never overplays his hand, refusing to give us more of an epiphany than this 76-minute first feature can sustain. A gay-baiting taunt is nicely parried, and the brief appearance of a rowdy gaggle of white-boy skateboarders gives a telling glimpse of a young Asian woman's dreams. (Kabuki, Closing Night, 3/17)



Butterfly explores illicit and unorthodox love in conservative Asian society.

Hiroshima Mon Amour A one-night-stand between two married people — a Japanese architect whose fluent French was acquired to study the French Revolution, and a French actress still scarred by the memory of the death of her German soldier lover — becomes the basis for one of the most adult love stories in the history of cinema. The couple, whose names we never learn (they call each other "Hiroshima" and "Nevers" after their battle-scarred hometowns), tease each other with the hope that their love can outlast the circumstances of a chance meeting. In a collaboration between New Wave director Alain Resnais and novelist Marguerite Duras that would influence film around the planet, the filmmakers blend horrific pictures of atomic-blast victims with some of the most highly-charged images of unblemished flesh. Duras says that a Western-looking Japanese actor was cast to avoid the "involuntary racism" of an affair based on exotic attraction. Even the Criterion DVD cannot surpass the pleasure of a Castro screening of this classic. (Castro, 3/12)

A Fond Kiss Scottish director Ken Loach completes his trilogy of films on working-class Glasgow (*Sweet Sixteen*, *My Name Is Joe*) with a lively romp through a multigenerational Pakistani/Scottish clan whose well-ordered plans for their eldest son Casim (Atta Yaqub), including an arranged marriage to a cousin, come tumbling down when he falls for a Catholic schoolteacher, Roisin (Eva Birthistle). Once your ears attune themselves to the mix of subcontinent and Scottish accents (subtitles would have helped), the various resentments roiling a family whose members seek both a very British idea of the good life without severing the ethnic umbilical cord will divert until the

Romeo and Juliet leads decide if they're right for each other. Be sure not to miss a movie-stealing rant from an exasperated Catholic priest who reads the riot act to an intrepid Irish lass (a wonderful monologue from Scottish comedian Gerard Kelly), a refreshing lesson in Catholicism 101 for an audience reared on *The Life of Brian*. (PFA, 3/13; Kabuki, 3/16)

Chinese Restaurants The second installment of director Cheuk Kwan's unique mission, to locate Chinese restaurants in places you'd not expect to find them — this time, in Madagascar, Norway and Canada. Kwan uses his finely-tuned palate, his skill with languages, and a fine eye for the trivial details that can shape a story or change a life to trace the amazing growth and geographical dispersion of the Chinese Diaspora, revealing how an ancient culture has adapted to some remarkably hostile social climates. In addition to examining the many different kinds of families who can keep the doors open, Kwan demonstrates the many ways to operate a traditional Chinese kitchen, with meals that may or may not include potstickers, MSG and fortune cookies. (Kabuki, 3/13, 17)

Yasmin A grittier worst-case scenario of the sudden downside to dark skin in a Northern English town after the planes hit the towers is seen through the eyes of a plucky Muslim woman. Yasmin (a fine turn by Hindu-raised actress Archie Panjabi) divides her time between veiled obedience to a traditional father, who saddles her with an arranged marriage to a Pakistani-born goat-herder (who brings the goat), and a trying modern job at a day school for the disabled. Yasmin begins each day jumping into her sporty red car for a quick spin into the country,

page 48 ▶

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[‡] Up to 168 weeks.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SUSTIVA® (efavirenz)

INDICATION: SUSTIVA is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1).

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are taking the following medicines: Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), ergot medicines (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®), or Vfend® (voriconazole). **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations (particularly St. John's wort) you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior** have been reported by a small number of patients taking SUSTIVA. There have been a few reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA was the cause.
- **Dizziness, trouble sleeping or concentrating, drowsiness, and/or unusual dreams** are common. These feelings tend to go away after taking SUSTIVA for a few weeks.

- **Pregnancy: Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.** Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated with SUSTIVA during pregnancy. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom, even if they also use other methods of birth control.

- **If you have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**


- **Rash** is a common side effect that usually goes away without any change in your medicines. Rash may be a serious problem in some children.

- **If you have liver disease, have ever had seizures, or are taking medicine for seizures,** your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver or check drug levels in your blood.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of SUSTIVA taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime, which may make some side effects less bothersome.

 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

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Please see Important Product Information about SUSTIVA on the next page.

SUSTIVA®
(efavirenz) 600 mg
tablets

Ask your doctor if Once Daily SUSTIVA is right for you.

PATIENT INFORMATION

R ONLY

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)]
capsules and tablets**ALERT:** Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 1 (HIV-1), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). NNRTIs are not used in the treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 2 (HIV-2) infection.

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4+ cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA?**General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.

- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the offspring of animals and women treated with SUSTIVA during pregnancy. It is not known whether SUSTIVA caused these defects. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
 - Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
 - Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
 - Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
 - Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.
- Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you**
- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
 - have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.
 - have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures (for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital). Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA (efavirenz) may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicine should not be taken with SUSTIVA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from SUSTIVA:

- Vfend® (voriconazole)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Blaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate). If you are taking SUSTIVA and REYATAZ, you should also be taking Norvir® (ritonavir).
- Zolof® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. **Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.**

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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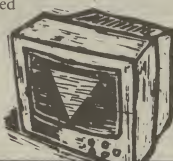
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Collateral damage, stars without makeup

by Victoria A. Brownworth

What a week! Between the dish, the dirt and the outright filth, it's difficult to know where to begin. The voyeur in us wants to start with Fox's incendiary (read headline-making) special *Stars without Makeup*. Omigod: that shot of the usually gorgeous Susan Sarandon at the beach with her four-ft. cleavage and breasts hanging to her knees! She looked like *The Creature from the Boob Lagoon*.

The celebrity news junkie in us wants to start with Martha Stewart's release from the Big House to the Bigger House. It turns out she really missed lemons in



Lavender Tube

prison. First day home, she was walking around her 153-acre estate sniffing an armload of lemons. Stewart told the press she couldn't wait to go inside and make some hot lemonade. Yes, that's certainly what I'd be dreaming of in the slammer, lemons. By the way, can we get house arrest at Martha's place?

But the politico in us says the big TV news is still Iraq and the Bush team's ability to spin the media. The American death toll is now over 1,500. Last week, more than 300 people were killed and even more injured in Iraq. There's an average of three to five car bombings each day. We need to see scenes of Iraqi dead to drive home the point of what is happening in that country.

The media may not be too concerned about another few hundred dead Arabs in one week, but are a tad uncomfortable about one dead and three wounded Italians. Giuliana Sgrena, 57, an award-winning journalist, had been seen on TV worldwide, first as a TV war reporter, then as a hostage. After a month of captivity, Nicola Calipari, a senior Italian secret service agent, managed to secure her release on March 4.

But as Sgrena, Calipari and two other secret service agents drove toward the Baghdad airport, they were fired upon by American troops. Calipari was killed, falling onto Sgrena, who, like the other two agents, was wounded.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi continues to be outraged at a not-too-apologetic President Bush (well, that Social Security threat is looming) and has been venting on Italian TV in barely controlled tirades broadcast around Europe.

According to ABC, Italian-American relations are strained to the breaking point by the incident. Washington should be concerned. Italy has the fourth largest number of troops in the so-called "coalition," and the Italian populace is united against the war on Iraq. Berlusconi is up for re-election, and this incident, discussed ad nauseam on Italian TV, is sure to play a role. Sgrena's partner Pier Scolari, speaking on RAI TV in Italy outside the hospital where she is being treated, accused US forces of recklessness. "I hope the Italian government does something, because either this was an ambush, or we are dealing with imbeciles or terrorized kids who shoot at anyone."

Security breach

One reason Bush may not be on top of the Italian tragedy is his

obsession with Social Security. Remember the Swift Boat ads back during the race for President? Well, the Swift Boat guys are back, and this time AARP is their target. Now called USA Next, their target ad floated in various markets shows an American soldier on one side and two gay guys in tuxes with their arms around each other on the other side. The voiceover is clear: AARP is against our soldiers and for gay marriage.

AARP has decided not to respond, taking the same wrong tack John Kerry took until he lost 20 points in the polls. But here's the truth, since those folks for truth are also calling AARP the nation's "most liberal, leftist organization."

(ACLU, are you listening?) AARP did come out against the Ohio initiative banning gay marriage back in November. Because they believed it would damage marriage and cohabitation rights for seniors, queer and straight. And they don't address veteran's issues. Ever.

The ad is smarmy and indicative of the red-state/blue-state divide. Time to sink the Swift Boaters/USA Next with some vehement responses.

Speaking of vehement responses, Jay Leno is none too pleased at the gag order imposed on him vis-à-vis Michael Jackson. The latest celebrity trial, airing daily, has taken some bizarre turns already. When does Bubbles take the stand? Leno, on the witness list for Jackson, is barred from making jokes about Jackson or the trial.

The gag doesn't seem to be working. Jackson was featured in every one of Leno's monologues last week. The gag also spawned a new *shlick* on Jimmy Kimmel: someone from *Mad TV* dressed like Leno and telling Jackson jokes. We wish Leno would come out on stage with his mouth taped like Robin Williams did after he was censored at the Oscars.

Looks like Fox has gotten so much play from its makeup-less celebs that the network is preparing a sequel. One of the weirdest bits on the show was the aging of Michael Jackson: what he would have looked like if he hadn't had plastic surgery. We get that he would have been blacker. But why would he have looked like a fat, black Wayne Newton? (What was with the sideburns?) Since they couldn't find a bad photo of our favorite Barbie-come-to-life, Jessica Simpson, they just retouched her to project her as old and, of course, fat. She looked like Kirstie Alley with blonde hair. Memo to Fox: leave these photo-shop effects on the cutting-room floor for the sequel. We just want to see the real stars looking really bad here and now.

Indecent exposure

Meanwhile, back at censorship central, AKA Bush's Washington, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, the Republican from Alaska who thinks drilling through the wildlife reserve would be just fine, said last week he would push to apply broadcast decency standards to subscription television and radio services like cable and satellite.

Stevens told the National Association of Broadcasters, which represents the majority of television affiliates in the country,



Martha Stewart, released from the Big House, was all over TV last week.

"Cable is a much greater violator in the indecency area. I think we have the same power to deal with cable as over-the-air broadcasters. There has to be some standard of decency."

Stevens said he would push legislation to apply the standards to cable and satellite radio and television. Last week when *NYPD Blue* ended its 12-year run on ABC, producer/creator Stephen Bochco told ABC News that he

would not be able to get the show on the air today, given the current wave of censorship coming from the Bush FCC. Now Stevens wants to see cable go the way of the networks. Think of it as the TV version of Ashcroft distributing the drapes and fig-leaves to statuary throughout Washington. Janet Jackson has so much to answer for.

With *NYPD's* leave-taking go the naked asses of a lot of cute

guys who played detective over the years. We'll miss those. Particularly since Bochco's new show replacing *NYPD*, *Blind Justice*, has none of the bite of *Blue*.

What does have bite in the new lineup is the latest in the *Law & Order* franchise, *Trial by Jury*. We have loved Bebe Neuwirth for years (she was so fantastic as Lilith on *Frasier*), and she is just fabulous in this girl-driven version (Neuwirth, Amy Carlson, Candace Bergen, Annabella Sciorra) of the franchise. We give this new series an A+. The acting is superb, the dialogue is snappy, and the issues are the best of the *L&O* group.

Another must-see is CBS's latest round of *The Amazing Race*, which features a gay couple from West Hollywood. They are dishy and bitchy, and if they can hold on for a while it should be great fun as they interact with the straight pairings. The last queer couple on this terrific reality show came close to winning. Let's see how these boys do.

Finally, we find yet again that F. Scott Fitzgerald was wrong, there are second acts in American life. Just ask Martha Stewart. Back in her cozy digs, with lemons galore, not to mention staff and purebred animals everywhere, Martha has lost 20 lbs., signed a book deal, and will be doing a version of *The Apprentice* with Donald Trump. Plus her old show will be revived, filmed from her house arrest. And her stock is way up. Gosh, if Ken Lay goes to prison, maybe he'll come out Mother Teresa. Stay tuned. ▼

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Spirit of Saint Louis

Keith Richardson is Mr. Missouri Leather

by Mister Marcus

The spirit of leather is alive and well in St. Louis. Billed as the Gateway to the West, this metropolis on the banks of the Mississippi River is a town of stately mansions, beautiful cathedrals, a very friendly populace and a thriving leather community that does its share of fundraising for various GLBT agencies and non-gay causes. The people, gay and straight go out of their way to be friendly, understanding and there is a surprisingly large non-gay BDSM community.

If ever there was any disbelief in anyone's mind about the leather lifestyle in the Midwest, those doubts would have immediately vanished upon witnessing some 900 people cheering wildly at the Mr. Missouri Leather 2005 contest at JJ's Clubhouse and Bar.

It all happened last weekend, March 4-7, with the meet-and-greet on Friday night, the contest on Saturday night, a pancake breakfast prepared by the Blue Max MC on Sunday morning, and a Leather Ball on Sunday night.

The Gateway MC members staged the festivities and numerous volunteers worked their fingers to the bone to insure all went right. And it did. Big time.

Five men stepped up to the plate: Ken Deskins; Dwan Farr; Wes Kassulke; Keith Richardson; and Bobby Vey. They dared to compete for one of the longest-running leather titles on the circuit.

Head judge Philip Dietrich shepherded Mark Bozif, Jason Hendrix, George Hester, Mama Reinhardt, George Wong and myself through the various categories that were tallied by Dave Rhodes. A spirited group, there was a lot of laughter in the interview room throughout the interlude.

Stepping aside after a distinguished year with the title, Ron Walters was pressed into duty as the master of ceremonies. It proved a fast paced contest that lasted a mere two and a half hours, including the other judged categories and his own two-minute step-aside speech—short and sweet, but insightful.

There was even a contest inside the contest, a featured "Gateway Guy" competition with some



The winners at JJ's in St. Louis, Missouri, last Saturday, March 5 were, from left: Dwan Farr, 2nd runner-up; Keith Richardson, the title winner; and Wes Kassulke, 1st runner-up. Keith advances to compete at IML 2005 in May.

dozen or so members of the audience participating. The audience applause narrowed it down to two semi-finalists, and Bruce was the winner, earning a \$50 cash prize. Bruce just happens to be the other half of Ron Walters. Hooting and hollering was heard throughout that episode. There were raffle prizes as well, with some great items.

When the tallies were finalized in the main contest, the results were as follows: the 2nd runner-up is Dwan Farr; the 1st runner-up is Wes Kassulke, and Mr. Missouri Leather 2005 is Keith Richardson, a 5'7" seasoned leather man and also a leather maker. His past experiences in the leather world included a landmark employment discrimination case between himself and the Boy Scouts of America, a case that generated nationwide television and press reports citing public funding of not-for-profits. Mr. Richardson advances to compete in the 2005 International Mr. Leather competition.

It was a wonderful weekend and reassuring to know that leather is alive and well in St. Louis.

The 15 Assn. at 25!

Apologies to The 15 Association for mistakenly printing last week that their anniversary dinner

two weekends ago was their 15th, when in fact it was their 25th anniversary. At least one member/supporter let out a loud squawk at my error. Jeez!

There was another Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse on Thursday, March 3. I haven't received all the details, but when it was all over only one man made the grade and that would be Andy Knapp.

I've received many emails announcing that the "pretty-boy-next-door" photographer Steven Underhill has "volunteered" to photograph the 2006 Bare Chest Calendar winners. No explanation as to why James Geras isn't doing it this time around, but we won't go there, will we Mike Smith?

The SF Chapter of the Men of Discipline had a "do" at Daddy's on Saturday night, but no reports were issued on that event from either Daddy's or the MOD dudes. Is Daddy's trying to become a leather bar again? Having the MOD on board could do it, but why no publicity about the event? Well, a club that has a patron saint should probably exercise discretion.

On the other hand, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather, the delightful Jay Harcourt, had a smashing turnout for his party at Marlena's the same night as the MOD. It was billed as a "Mr. Sash Queen Competition" (tongue in cheek instead of some-

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend March 11-13

Nomination forms for the Golden Dildeaux Awards 2005 are still open until March 13 at the Eagle, Powerhouse, Mr. Lee-Ona's, Marlena's, Daddy's and the Edge. Go have a cocktail and see who deserves to be awarded for being a tramp!

Action in Portland, Oregon and Albuquerque, New Mexico. It's a Kinkfest in Portland. Email to: MsOrLeather2003@aol.com. In Albuquerque, it's "Spring Pandemonium" with lots of action and all at The Ranch.

Friday, March 11

"Canadian Bacon II" at Daddy's Bar begins at 2000 with special guest Sean Cribbins to benefit the BCFE dinner. A \$7 beer/soda bust, 50/50 drawing and door prizes.

Saturday, March 11

The 8th annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Dinner happens at the Arc on 11th & Folsom, with surprise entertainment, silent auction, fun. Tickets

are \$60 from www.frantix.net.

SF Fetish Ball at the SF Gift Center from 2100 to 0300 tomorrow. Two hours of live stage show performances, fashion shows, demos, laser lights, Men Only floor. Tix available at www.sffetishball.com, at Mister S in SF and L.A. and at Madame S.

Sunday, March 13

Last day to nominate your favorite pervert in the Golden Dildeaux Awards.

Wednesday, March 16

Leathermen's Discussion Group gather at Blow Buddies at 1930 hours for the topic, "Boys as Submissives" with the wisdom of Lincoln Anderson, Michael Holean, David Shorey and Phil Lindo.

Thursday, March 17

Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse Bar around 2200 tonight. Get in there and show it all off!

Chain gang

Doing 'Painful Time' in amateur movie

by John F. Karr

Well, slap my wrists and call me a hellion. But I like a pair of tit-clamps. I'm aroused just remembering the day I walked in the front door to find my hubby vacuuming the living room while wearing nothing but a jockstrap and some tit-clamps. Sure Signs Your Boyfriend is Gay, #107: he vacuums the living room wearing nothing but a jockstrap and some tit-clamps. How they dangled and bobbed as he pushed that sucker round the floor. It wasn't long before this sucker replaced the other.

Gay men have been aware that the nipple's an erogenous zone for a long time. But you just don't see much nipple action on screen. A few tweaks and a little suckle, sure. But boys don't seem to want their buds of beauty bitten by ory braces. They like to see all sorts of paraphernalia on every other part of the body, like cock rings, harnesses, and here and there a buttplug. But tit clamps? Nah. So when I saw the photo of two guys tugging each other's chrome clips on the cover of *Painful Time*, I grabbed it.

Perhaps I was a bit hasty. I paid no heed to the description, "Kinky Twinks in Mild S/M Torture Session," and *Painful Time* scorched my knobs but good. I would have preferred *Playful Time*. Still, having survived without much enjoyment this movie's various and assorted meanderings—harsh smacking with leather strap, ball gags, C&B torture and the genuine tears of pain one fellow invokes from his playmate—I gotta say the conclusion paid off, when the boys cum while tugging each other's chains.

Painful Time is an amateur video, made in England by Shoot

Painful Time



by Shoot Productions
Kinky Twinks in Mild S/M
Torture Session



Productions and distributed hereabouts by AMVC.com, which is a clearinghouse for a slew of amateur pornographers. Much of AMVC's stuff is decidedly low-scale, homemade. But you're sure to find your fetish represented there, and I'll be reporting on more of the off-beat, non-mainstream stuff I've recently found at AMVC.com. At any rate, *Painful Time* has a grainy picture, but the videography is good, and the camera steady. It is not a representation of sexuality, like most porn, but actual sex. It takes place in the apartment of two attractive blond blokes, both uncut. Kris is 19 and slightly fey. Steve is 20 and more hard-edged. There's some swagger in his stern ministrations.

Agony & ecstasy

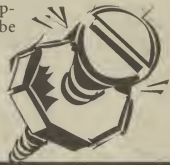
For some 45 minutes, Steve heaves the agony on the willing, reactive, and loudly remonstrative Kris, who doesn't say a word, but yelps like a pup dog, and cries out, "Ow!" Steve is very creative in tor-

menting Kris' tits, only occasionally offering the consolation of his cock for Kris to suck as a distraction, and then, to offset the kindness, tugging even harder on the chain that tweaks those teats. Rudely yanking the clamps off, Steve plays with the bruised nips while stuffing his cock into Kris' mouth. It's tit for tat, so to speak, and stifles the kid's whimpering.

Kris has a ball gag stuffed in his mouth. His hands are handcuffed to one end of the bed frame, and a rope tethering his cock and balls stretches them toward the other end. With his torso thus elongated, the clamps have more play on his chest, and after the nubs are enflamed, Steve uses a leather strap on them. Then he loops the chest chain to Kris' cocking, and prides the kid's jackknifed body apart.

And then he links a leash onto the chest chain and tawls Kris around the apartment by his distended tits.

Kris gets his 45-minute turn, and if anything, he's even crueler than the stern Steve, all of whose torments (plus a little dildoing) are tossed back at him with greater severity. It's all a bit much for my more mainstream tastes. Although cudgel by clamp is the focus throughout, the last 10 minutes are a real tit-wrecking rum-pus, with cocksucking and wanking and the boys tugging on each other's chains until their mutual pain brings them off. But not, as I said, before real tears are shed. Funny, what some folks like to do for fun. As for me, I'm reverting for a while to the far more gentle clothespin. www.AMVC.com



Karrnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

one's buns) to benefit Magnet. Celebrity judges and former leather titleholders did a mini-version of the Closet Ball. Even "leather daddy" Tony Koester was forced to dispense with his macho image and ended up wearing a "fetish skirt" from the Madame S store. When the judges' scores were added, IML "darling" Scott Brogan ended up as "Mr. Sash Queen"—one of those "I don't have to do any fundraising" titles—and garnered a rhinestone leather sash and a bouquet of roses. The event raised \$1,000 for Magnet. Thanks to all that participated.

Dances with dish

Would you believe a "consortium" of disgruntled "cry-baby" queens are trying to quash the Mr. San Francisco Leather title contest? Don't these people have anything better to do? And the dummies who support this movement are nothing but "a nation of sheep", following blindly, completely unaware that they look like fools themselves. It won't work, though. A tradition that has survived some 26 years cannot be killed by a group of johnny-come-latelies who have done little or nothing for this community's well-being since they arrived on our turf. It's okay for them. They have their titles already and they don't want anyone



San Francisco's own "Mama", one of the Mr. Missouri Leather 2005 judges, posed with Mr. Missouri Leather 1999 Jarrod Doak at the contest in St. Louis last Saturday.

else to have one. One of the culprits in this movement once said to me, "New York is over for me. They eat their own there." Is this a "repeat performance"?

Well, that's enough bad news for this week. Only the strong survive and we all know that. So keep doing all the good things you've been doing in your proud-to-be-

leather attitude, and keep supporting people and agencies that deserve it. Don't waste your time with "disgruntled, irrational thinking people."

See you next week and at Mama's Breast Cancer Emergency Fund dinner this Saturday night at the Arc (11th & Howard Sts.). ▼

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Raising money while raising spirits

Dropping in on our community's hottest fundraising events

by Donna Sachet

On the heels of a grand night of Oscar mania, split between Jan Wahl's annual *Evening at the Oscars* at the Pan Pacific (can you imagine a seated dinner where each entrée was a reference to an Oscar-nominated film, and where the guests actually watched the telecast avidly?) and *Nuit d'Argent*, the 25th Annual Academy of Friends Gala at Fort Mason (where every silver sequin was put to good use, and where Supervisor Bevan Dufty's birthday gathering garnered more attention than the awards telecast), you would think that San Francisco's social life would take a well-deserved rest, but there is indeed "no rest for the weary!"

Although no major events were scheduled last weekend, the community continued to raise money while raising spirits. Last Thursday saw another enthusiastic crowd of bingo aficionados with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at the Metropolitan Community Church, and another rousing Basket Contest at The Edge hosted by the inimitable Danny Williams. Watch out for those first Thursdays of every month!

Last Saturday night, we bounced between two leather-related events. At Marlena's, the current Mr. Hayes Valley, Jay Harcourt, organized something of a "closet ball" entitled *Mr. Sash Queen*, where prominent leather personalities went through an amazing transformation into female personae. Although Jay himself did not surrender to the temptation, there were three willing

participants. Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2004, Darryl Jansson, in a dress inspired by the game *Twister* and in amazingly Dr. Seuss-like hair, knew every word of his lip-synched song, having obviously rehearsed in front of a mirror for hours! Miss Cowgirl 2002 Chanel deserves great credit for masterminding this metamorphosis.

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2003, Michael Dumont, chose a sporty outfit and sportier hair for his inspired duet with his talented creator, Empress XXXVI Chablis. But the undisputed winner of the night was Scott Brogan, modeling two different elegant gowns and performing two well-rehearsed numbers, all to the much-deserved credit of Empress XX of Spokane Cher-a-Little Smith. You'll be happy to know that recently elected Emperor

John-Richard and Empress Tiger Lily were in attendance, already on the benefit circuit with energy and enthusiasm. With the sale of raffle tickets and auction items, over \$800 was raised for Magnet, the relatively new health agency in the Castro.

The generous proprietor of the bar, Empress XXV Marlena, as she often does, topped off the funds to a round \$1,000. Contrary to what one might read in certain letters to the editor, indeed there are bars, like Marlena's, The Edge, Daddy's, and The Powerhouse, to mention a few, committed to raising money for worthy community organizations who would sorely feel the loss of that much-needed income.

Discipline matters

Meanwhile, in the Castro, the leather affiliation club Men of Discipline (MOD) was hosting a party at Daddy's, and the place was packed to the rafters! Whether it was the jello shots, the jockstrap

and boots competition, or simply the dazzling aura of hosts Tony Bowser and Victor Torres, it was an evening of palpable energy and sizzling testosterone. Yes, Daddy's has gone through some significant changes, but when the event is right, the place rocks!

Upcoming, we'll be in San Jose for their Imperial Coronation on Saturday, March 12, to see Emperor Kevin Roche step down. He has actively supported so many San Francisco events that we are sure he'll have a large visiting contingent from here. The following day, March 13, don't miss the new Emperor of San Francisco's birthday party at Marlena's at 4 p.m. Money will be raised for the Monarch's Charity Fund to be disbursed to various charities at the end of this reign. Remember, in February, Emperor XXXII Fernando and Empress XXXIX China Silk distributed over \$14,000 to community organizations. Well done! ▼



Spotted at Acad. of Friends Gala.

Asian-American

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where she does a complete costume change. Her complex loyalties (including to a white fellow teacher) are tested to the breaking point when George Bush's voice suddenly appears on the BBC, and armed UK security forces demonstrate how in a unitary monarchical state, the Queen can test her subjects' loyalty with blazing speed. Director Kenny Glenaan and writer Simon Beaufoy provoke without offering Band-aids solutions. (Kabuki, 3/12, 14)

Listening to Love Songs (shorts program) SF's beloved cinema minimalist, the peripatetic Stuart Gaffney (will he ever do a fea-

ture?), gives his unique take on same-sex martial bliss in *Mumi to the Marriage*. His parent's mixed-race union becomes a metaphor for all the travails Gaffney must experience to change the title boyfriend to spouse. (Kabuki, 3/12, 15)

Turtles Can Fly I had moist eyes throughout the entire running-time of this quirky tale on the plight of Kurdish children who survive the Bush era by disarming landmines and selling the scrap for pennies on the dollar.

Iranian-born Kurdish writer/director Bahman Ghobadi (*A Time for Drunken Horses*, *Marooned in Iraq*) begins his story with a memorable image: an army of children (some missing various limbs) gather on a hill as their "fearless leader" Kak Satellite (Soran Ebrahim), a skinny kid with horn-rimmed glasses, installs a large television antenna. Satellite's knowledge of how to link his impossibly isolated village to the Babel of 500-channel TV gives him power over grouchy older men who ply him with bribes to learn the starting time of the next Bush war. Director Ghobadi cleverly demonstrates how problematic the news can be for god-fearing Islamic tribesmen whose faith forbids them to watch certain naughty channels (we see flashes of the poet of lost souls, Kurt Cobain). Ghobadi broadly hints that TV news is a lot less reliable than the extraordinary visions of an armless boy who wanders the hills with his suicidal sister and a tiny child. (PFA, 3/13; Kabuki, 3/15)

The Green Hat I'm a euphony junkie, a sucker for the sound and mouth-feel of certain words: nymphomaniac; the name of Fassbinder vixen Hannah Schygulla can give me an orgasm (another nice word); and then there's cuckold, an old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon term for a man betrayed by a wife or lover. In Chinese, such a man is said to wear a green hat. Director/writer Liu Fendou's *The Green Hat* uses this ancient dishonor to kickstart a Tarantino-like mix of sex, cute pet tricks and plain old nasty violence. Beginning with the off-kilter story of a trio of bank robbers, the director boldly switches protagonists in one of the biggest au-

dience-defying stunts since Hitchcock's *Psycho*. From a gun-wielding robber who takes a hostage after getting a "dear John" call from a American-based girlfriend to the startled hostage-negotiator cop whose own marriage has unraveled, *The Green Hat* gives us head-spinning views of a no-longer-so-conservative Chinese society's attempt to cope. A mix of engaging characters and anarchic sex play that will please, perplex and provoke. (Castro, 3/11; Cam-era, 3/20)

Schizo Yet another riveting drama with a boxing background, this time headed up by a beguiling 15-year-old protagonist from a very backward province of the old Soviet Union, Kazakhstan. Schizo (Olzhas Nussupbaev) is at first sight a blank-faced and possibly disturbed young man whose mother takes him in for what passes for a mental-health check-up in this poorest imaginable society. Put on a regimen of strange medicines in the custody of a outlaw of an uncle, Schizo gets a close-up look at the world of illegal bare-knuckle prizefighting. Run by a ruthless gang of cut-throats, the mismatches feature desperately broke peasants who may literally kill each other in the ring. The death of one such fighter, Ali, prompts Schizo to befriend the man's crippled young widow and his infant son. Like David Arnett, the intense young hero in the early '90s Goldie Hawn vehicle *CrissCross*, Schizo has a lot going on behind his glazed-over look. A series of violently perplexing plot jump-cuts force our hero to desperate measures without losing our sympathy. (Kabuki, 3/14)

An Evening with Steven Okazaki On his first visit to Tokyo, walking downtown in a pair of white tennis shoes, the young Okazaki was struck by the stares he was getting. A friend gently pointed out that every other person was wearing black footwear. Okazaki got the hint and changed his shoes that day, but didn't abandon his very American habit of asking pesky questions. On Tuesday (3/15) at the Kabuki, the world premiere of Okazaki's *The Mushroom Club*, a sequel to his 1980 film *Survivors*, documenting the lives of Japanese

men and women who lived through the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, will precede a conversation between Okazaki and *Pacific Time* radio-program host Nguyen Qui Duc.

Living on Tokyo Time Before TV's *Freaks and Geeks* and *Undeclared*, there was Okazaki's first fictional creation: the terminally nerdy Ken (Ken Nakagawa), the socially retarded guitarist with a fledgling Bay Area garage band, whose life spins out of control when he acquires a Japanese-born girlfriend, Kyoko (Minako Ohashi), a young woman desperate to stay in the US despite the expiration of her visa. Okazaki said his advice to actor Ken was to eat a lot of junk food to produce a really bad complexion, stay out of the sun, practice guitar, and most of all, don't act. You can see the results in this festival oldie that launched the careers of many notable Japanese American film artists. (Kabuki, 3/16)

Past Imperfect, Future Tense (shorts program) In *My German Boyfriend*, director Wayne Yung dissects with humor and pathos a young Chinese man's answer to the age-old problem of the mail-order bride with a few too many possible grooms. Yung has great fun at the expense of every stereotype about over-the-top Germans pitted against clichés about Western culture's relentless desire to emasculate Chinese men. Finding the perfect German boyfriend in Hamburg turns out to be about as hard as digging to China from the same spot on the map.

Ariana Michael Sandoval's moving short explores the seldom-broached touchy subject of boyfriends called upon to co-exist with mentally challenged in-laws. Abbas Imad (Shashi Balooja) is trying his hardest to be the perfect gay hyphenated-American. Joining a fast-paced group medical practice, Dr. Abbas celebrates by inviting his white actor boyfriend, Karl (Tate Ellington), to share a home with him and his Armenian grandmother, Ariana (Anahid). The older woman's rapidly progressing dementia threatens to derail Dr. Abbas' carefully constructed life. (Castro, 3/12) ▼

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See the Thing Itself!



My life as a dog

by Sweet Lips

Here's an item to chew on: My friend in Ohio, John Virginia Kehr, sent me a clipping from the local paper, "Founding Father Facts," regarding George Washington. Facts: George was the tallest president at 6' 6 1/2", and he loved animals. Some of his estate dogs were named True-love, Mopsy, Madam Moose ... and Sweetlips! So now you know — I'm named after the Founding First Dog. How's that for an interesting pedigree?



Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Turk Street has a great show on Thursday evenings at 10 p.m. called the Tubesteak Connection, which is very funny, and the drinks are a bargain price at \$2.50 each.

Miss Dee is no longer at Aunt Charlie's on the weekends, getting ready to move to Northern California. Her morning regulars, including Bart, Jim, Larry and Kelly, are sad, to say the very least.

The Twin Peaks in the Castro is still one of the nicest bars to have a drink in. They really keep it spit-shined and polished, and I always enjoy seeing the latest "orchid-

scape" on the back bar. Mike Valdez and the entire staff are most friendly and congenial.

Emperor Steve Rasher has done it again; the Portland charity event raised \$2,500 for their school fund, and a great time was had by all. Mame and her friend Bob plus so many pretty people were on hand at Ginger's Trois, including the folks from Seattle.

Dick Deemer is back in Puerto Vallarta, but will be back in August to see his many friends and to see his doctor for a checkup. Make an appointment with him now!

Jim Manges of Cinch fame is going to PV on March 13, and Hal Mulvehill will be there the following week. It seems everyone but Lippert will be in the sun this month.

Do you need some really great catering for a Saint Patrick's Day Party? If so, give chef Dennis Tyler a call at (415) 567-8782, but book early as he is always busy.

Our good friend Jim Welsh is under treatment for cancer but is doing well. We're all saying a little prayer for you, darling.

Ronnie Lynn is such a honey! He calls me every morning to see if I'm okay or need anything. Thanks, sweetheart! ▼

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Brazilian music

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can co-exist in harmony.

You may have already heard this, but it's still worth noting. Of the four members of Brazilian Girls, none are Brazilian, and only



one is female. Don't you just love that? I know I do, and I also love this relatively new band's self-titled debut disc (Verve Forecast), which sounds as if it were conceived to appeal to an audience that wants more from both its Brazilian and dance music. Sabina Sciubba, the female member, provides the vocals and sings in English, Italian, French and a couple of other tongues. If your favorite club DJ isn't spinning "Don't Stop," they ought to be, and the same goes for "Sirènes De La Fête" and the aptly-named "Dance Til the Morning Sun." The remaining numbers, which alternate between taking Bossa Nova chill out to a cool new level and dabbling in dub, are all worth repeated spins.

Without a doubt, my very favorite bossa-style disc of the moment is the self-titled release by Nouvelle Vague (Luaka Bop/V2).



Musicians and producers Marc Collins and Oliver Libaux are joined by a half-dozen female vocalists who take turns reshaping vintage punk tunes into the most seductive bossa-new wave tunes you've ever heard. If you've ever thrown yourself around a dance-floor to Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart," Depeche Mode's "Just Can't Get Enough," Public Image Ltd.'s "This Is Not a Love Song," The Dead Kennedys' "Too Drunk to Fuck," The Undertones' "Teenage Kicks," and The Specials' "Friday Night, Saturday Morning," you can still do so, although your dance moves might be more focused on the hip-and-butt range.

Released a few years ago, Carl Henry Brueggen's *Cinzano & Cocaine* (dustygroove.com) was recently sent to me to whet my appetite for his upcoming 2005 release. Nicer still, it fit well into this piece on Brazilian music. For someone who is known for rocking out, Brueggen embraces the Bossa Nova, sending waves of warm rhythms and smooth beats out to the listener. All three tracks on this EP are guaranteed to inspire listeners to samba until they can't stand it anymore. ▼

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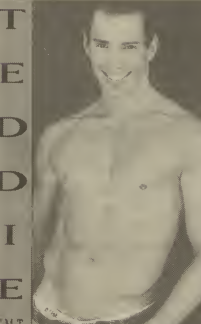
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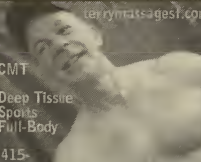
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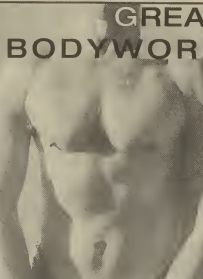
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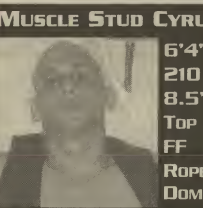
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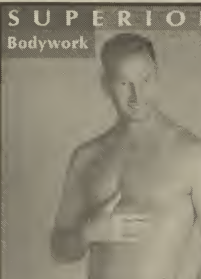
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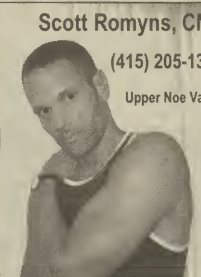
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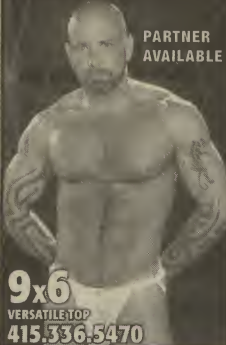


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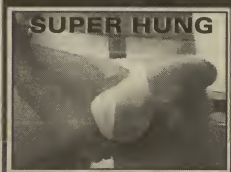
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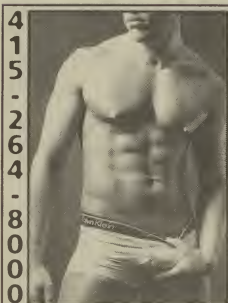
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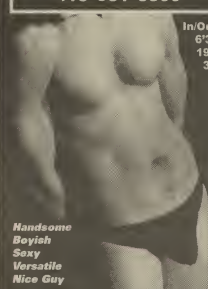


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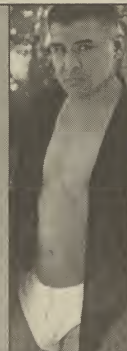
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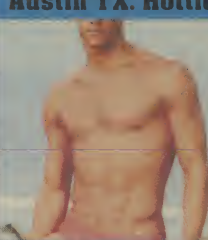
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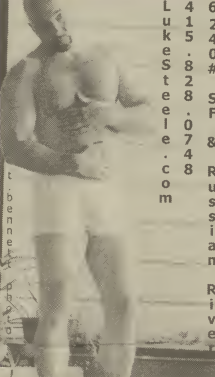
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6'3" 230 Smooth Straight/Married
415 240-5330 Serious Only

**24/7 USE CONDOMS • BE
WISE • 4 FUN**

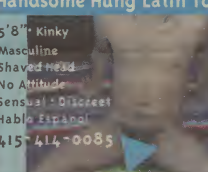
SEXY MAN-BOY!

Smooth, Athletic Top
PICTURE AVAILABLE
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LATINO
muscular
x-fine
genuinely
handsome
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Handsome Hung Latin Top
5'8" Kinky
Masculine
Shaved Head
No Attitude
Sensual • Discreet
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10" BLACK
ADONIS

Horse Hung Top Cut Thick 10 x 7
25 Sweet Sexy Discreet Student!
Outcalls Only!
Jason 415 724-4796

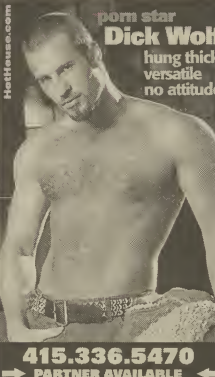
BACK IN TOWN
BLACK
DOMINATE

Top 5'6" 145lbs 10 in. Well Hung.
Enjoys Clean And New Experiences.
Contact Barry At 415 240-6314
Out Only \$150

SOUTH BAY
LATIN

36yr 6' 165# Masculine 100%
Versatile 8x5 Uncut Well Built
Nice Bud, Tattoo, Goatee, Will Travel
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pom star
Dick Wolf
hung thick
versatile
no attitude



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**BDSM
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ETC**
5'8" • 150
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Playroom
Beginners
Welcome
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UNDERWEAR PARTY
Thursday, March 10
\$5 FREE before 10 P.M.
Benefits: P.A.W.S.



Trade in your old
Underwear
for a FREE drink!

WET Underwear contest at MIDNIGHT
\$100 First prize
1347 Folsom SF, CA 415-552-6689 powerhouse-sf.com

Tired of seeing things in black and white? So are we!
Now you can have your ad in full sassy
COLOR, that's right, **COLOR**!

BAY AREA REPORTER

Contact David or Elsa for
rates and info.
Phone: 415.861.5019
Email: BARadv@aol.com



Elsa Darling, Guess what? The 'Personals'
section in the B.A.R. are now in color!
Isn't that just the most!

Oh, David, that's fabulous.
But, um, dear...why are you reading
the personals in the B.A.R.???

288 valencia san francisco, CA 94103
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Hot Local Guys! **MrN**

Bay Area's hottest chatline

Men Meet Men Right Now!
Preview each guy before you decide to connect live!

Try it for
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San Jose
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Male endowment measuring party
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Experienced, Safe
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GWM, professional, 54, HIV-, brn
hair & eyes, 5'11" av build, Loves the
symphony, singing and Sunday New
York Times. ISO fellow music afi-
cionado in his 30's or 40's, HIV-, at-
tractive, upbeat attitude & playful
wit! San Jose or San Francisco Bay
Areas preferred. Visit <http://gaymillionairesclub.com> client ad 2738 (FREE)

WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

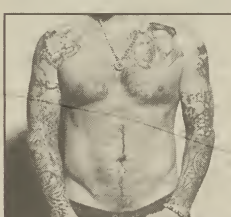
- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
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24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

Free
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2ND FRI. EACH MONTH
PRIVATE SESSIONS ALSO AVAILABLE
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STRICTLY SEX!!
Hook-up Discreetly. 18+.
Call 415-247-2000 or
510-814-6699. Ad #5102.



BAR TALK

1.900.226.7036

Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™ You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone! Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Seek Older Bear Or Slim Man
BM 46yo 185lbs 5'10" big tits, smooth ass, needs a hard tool and mouth. Love when you show muscle. 38 or older.
☎ 71506

Dark Skin Mexican Latin G-Looking
40 yrs. H-5'07 W157lb. versatile legal resident of SF. Slim, muscular body. Lite hair on body nice as fuck ISO GWM/GLM 30/45 yrs. 5:05/5:10 150/160 lbs. versatile. Size unimportant. No drugs, smoking, or heavy drinkers.
☎ 71502

Older Cigar Or Pipe Smokers
LM 6', 165lbs. dk hr. I'm looking for a much older M who regularly smokes cigars or pipes & enjoys a lot of affection, deep kissing, & other oral pleasures. Not into gay lifestyle.
☎ 71497

50s German Looking To Meet Men
Blonde German looking to meet guys between 50-60. Disease free, sense of humor, friendship wanted - I'm just a simple Joe.
☎ 71503

Donde esta el amigo de mi alma?
Gay Latino, 50's, 5'10", 200#, seeks Latino soul-mate, 40-70, passionate, romantic, and ready for monogamous relationship. Toma mi mano, y juntos volaremos en las alas del amor!
☎ 71490

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Kewl Blue Collar Top ISO Boy Pup
GWM 39 with an edge for sexual pleasures, and very good at it. ISO tall slim white boy that knows how to play hard. Think it's you? Reply!
☎ 71504

Caucasian Bottom For Asian Top
Mature talented white bottom wants to pleasure Asian top w/my muscular tan line butt!
☎ 71498

Endowed Black Man, 50, 5'9", 180
Needs oral servicing daytimes M-F from a mature, oral expert, either clean shaven or mustache only. No age limit, all races welcome. Direct phone required.
☎ 71501

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spankings, role playing and plowing your ass
☎ 71496

Pose For Male Nude Photos!!
Photographers in East Bay looking for in-shape male models for nude, artistic, erotic and sensual photos. We want to put you in pictures. Call and join the fun!
☎ 71494

Sex Nude Beaches And Sunshine!
Masculine goodlooking GWM seeks travel partner for nude beaches and travel. Florida, Caribbean, Mexico. I'm very uninhibited and fun. Black guys a plus.
☎ 71489

Hobo Bear
Homeless, 30ish, uncut guy, hairy, bearded, bubble butt, 13EE, sandated, freckled, English/Welsh. Let's have togetherness, warmth - or, show me who's boss! Freckles, hazel eyes, brunette, wide shoulders.
☎ 71492

FETISHES

Oral Sex Coach For Your Ladies
They learn watching me deep-throat our meat/lick sweat off balls/eat ass/gulp piss; you moans cue action for them!
☎ 71507

Married Straight Into Whipping
Do you have dungeon and desire to punish bad boys? I need a good whipping. I have whips for you to use on my bare back, ass, legs.
☎ 71505

Masc 50 Role Play Showing Off
5'10" 170lbs into getting serviced by talented mouth from older in shape suit and tie
☎ 71500

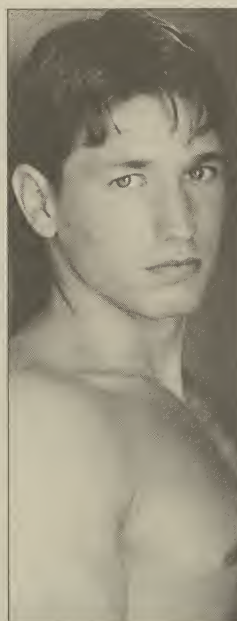
BI - Threesome Ravish - 69 More
Me Mr. xx. Age 57 - ISO all bi - couples (21 - 45) for bi - threesome. 69 all day. French/Clear +++ Drag - Queens too - +++ No Drugs. Only "bi"
☎ 71499

Nude Wrestle
GWM, 5'8", 160 lbs, seeking slim sized opponents for nude battle to pin or submission. Be clean and competitive.
☎ 71495

Naked Guys Into Golden Showers
Want to lay naked up to your balls in piss and dirty water? Meet me at the trough urinal in the back of Mack Folsom Prison on Monday nights.
☎ 71493

OTHERS

Play Ball!
Established Gay Softball team looking for players. World series participant 3 of last 5 years. All are welcome!
☎ 71491



BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103


Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

PEOPLE

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Calling All Single Men!



Join the nation's most exclusive matchmaking agency and meet quality, relationship-minded men who want to meet you! Visit us online today. Free memberships to exceptional men ages 21-35.

gaymillionairesclub.com

ADULT JOBS OFFERED

FALCON STUDIOS

READY TO SHOW YOUR STUFF? FALCON STUDIOS,

The premiere gay adult video company, is holding an open casting call on March 25, 2005, 3-6PM. Must be 18yo with proof of ID. For more info, call 321-6629.

E12

OLDER MEN WANTED

4 XXX videos and modeling. Only 55+ men. Good pay call mark 626-473-2765 or

modelssf@older4me.com

E14

ADULT VIDEO COMPANY SEEKS LOCATIONS

Willing to pay top dollar for interesting, spacious locations to film our full-scale, premiere adult videos. Looking for dungeons, studios, warehouses, barns, garages, bars/nightclubs, theaters, gyms, large private homes, secluded private properties, etc. If you have a location we should see contact Leif at Hot House Entertainment: 415-864-8910 or leif@hothouse.com.

E10

FACTORY VIDEO

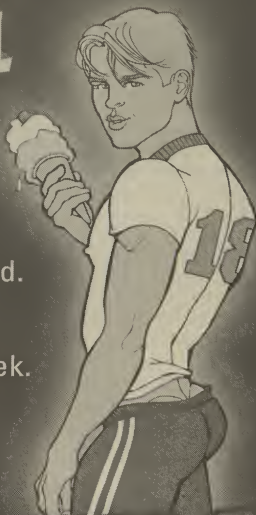
You - Hot, 18-35, in shape. Like sex & showing off + Making \$\$\$. Call now for an interview. Also looking for bears. Call us at 415-777-9070.

www.factoryvideos.com

E11

REAL

All ads have photos and are pre-screened. Live help available 7 days a week.



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LOCAL

At least 5,500 men online at all times!



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Available in 58 cities. Find men wherever you are!



BAY AREA REPORTER

SOUTH OF MARKET BARE CHEST



TM

CALENDAR 2006

SHAKE YOUR BASKET...
HUSTLERS-A-NO-NO
FRIDAY, MARCH 25
9 - MIDNIGHT



No-No Dancers* Dildo Toss* Shot Bar* Raffles
Egg Hunt
Benefits: SFEST, Hustlers
powerhouse

1347 Folsom San Francisco, CA 415-552-8689 powerhouse-sf.com



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